Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-046
Monday
9 March 1992

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FBIS-NES-92-046 9 March 1992

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Israel

Citing a "prominent Jewish source in New York," HA'AEETZ reported that President Bush "verbally abused" Shamir in graphic language last September. The same paper noted that Likud leaders "were not surprised" by similar remarks attributed to Secretary Baker by Edward Koch. A "political source" opined that a "harsh official reaction" will not be forthcoming, as the government does not want ties with Washington "burned." Before the weekend, Shamir told Jerusalem television that Israeli politics would not allow acceptance of a U.S. "dictate" regarding the linkage of settlement activity and loan guarantees, saying that "I do not think anyone here is ready to surrender to such coercion." In another televised interview, Shamir warned that accepting U.S. conditions would be "a most deplorable precedent the consequences of which Israel will suffer for generations to come." Interviewed by Jerusalem radio after the death of Menahem Begin, Shamir vowed to pursue Begin's doctrine and "to glorify our right to our entire homeland from the sea to the river." Elsewhere, the health minister urged the United States to halt a shipment of Scud missiles from North Korea to Syria, Jerusalem radio reported. The Foreign Ministry expressed "deep shock" at the death of a military officer attached to the embassy in Ankara, the radio continued.

Jordan

King Husayn departed on a trip to the United States and Europe, Amman radio reported. Before departure, the king received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister 'Aziz, who stopped over en route to a UN Security Council session, Amman television added.

Libya

Ibrahim al-Bishari, interviewed by the London paper AL-HAWADITH, urged an "honorable solution" to the Lockerbie crisis, and said that Libya is willing to send the suspects in the case for trial "anywhere in the world except the United States and Britain." Al-Bishari wrote the UN secretary general that the country would welcome a visit by a UN envoy to investigate whether terrorist training camps exist in the country, JANA reported.

Iran

Commenting on media reports about Scud missiles being shipped from North Korea, a Tehran radio commentary maintained that a U.S. seizure of a country's military vessels will be considered "an open infringement" on sovereignty. IRNA reported press reaction to the U.S. "piracy."

Lebanon

An Iranian envoy was said to have visited recently to discuss the release of the German hostages, according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain, which cited the London paper AL-HAYAH. The foreign minister told Voice of Lebanon that the country will insist that Washington be the venue for "any" future round of Arab-Israeli talks.

Egypt

The government rejected Israel's request to send a delegation to question the espionage suspects, according to Radio Monte Carlo, which added that an Israeli request for the files in the case had also been rejected. Commenting on the death of Menahem Begin, the foreign minister pointed out how Begin's acceptance of the land-for-peace formula facilitated the peace process, MENA reported. 'Amr Musa told the London paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the country "does not intend to try" the Lockerbie suspects, but demands that a trial be held "to absolve ourselves," the agency added.

Algeria

Mohamed Boudiaf clarified remarks attributed to him in an upcoming interview with the Cairo paper ROSE AL-YUSUF, according to which Boudiaf said that the secret police were behind the country's unrest in 1988, Algiers radio reported. The foreign minister also spoke about 1988, telling Paris television that multiparty democracy had been "hastily launched" and that the law on political parties "leaves much to be desired." Lakhdar Brahimi also "implicitly confirmed" the end of the country's "unconditional support" for Polisario, according to a Paris international radio correspondent who reported the foreign minister's press conference in Paris. In what that radio termed the Islamic Salvation Front's first communique following its dissolution, the group warned of a "calm before the storm," promising an "uncertain future for Algeria and possibly even civil war."

Tunisia

Responding to an Amnesty International report, a spokesman acknowledged some "regrettable mistakes" in the country's human rights record but affirmed that they were "isolated acts," Paris international radio reported.

Mauritania

An opposition member claimed fraud in the 6 March national elections, which were boycotted by several parties, Paris international radio reported; the ruling party won most of the seats contested, the radio added.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Ashrawi Regrets U.S. 'Bias' Toward Israel

JN0703192392 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] In Washington yesterday, the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral negotiations indicated that in its criticism of the Palestinian stance at the latest round of talks, which concluded on 4 March without any noteworthy progress, the United States showed bias toward the Zionist entity. In remarks to journalists, Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said that the State Department's statements mean that the United States is biased toward the Zionist entity. 'Ashrawi added that the U.S. statements are extremely regrettable and unjustifiable. She added that the Palestinian delegation offered historic and constructive proposals.

Meanwhile, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, [word indistinct] that the U.S. statements are not (?fair). He said that [words indistinct] completely conflicts with the basic standards of the peace process. On the other hand, he said, the Palestinians fully adhere to these standards.

Al-Husayni on Israeli, U.S. Stands

LD0603201692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Brother Faysal al-Husayni has described Israel's maneuvering and procrastination as aimed more at buying time than at participating in a real peace process. In an exclusive interview with APS during the fourth round of negotiations in Washington, Brother Faysal al-Husayni pointed out that an international initiative aimed at international and Israeli public opinion could change Tel Aviv's stubborn and arrogant stand and Shamir's efforts to implement the policy of fait accompli, at a time when an awareness of the legitimate and national rights of the Palestinian people—including Jerusalem—is becoming established.

With regard to the latest U.S. stand on loan guarantees to Israel, brother Faysal al-Husayni pointed out this undoubtedly has more to do with Washington's special interests, which are certainly moving in a sound direction.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni said: We Palestinians deal with realities, not theories, and international factors have changed while interests have remained the same.

In reply to a question about coordination between Arab delegations during these negotiations, the Palestinian negotiator expressed his hope that it will prove to be a permanent coordination in view of Israel's policy of repression in the occupied territories, which is characterized by new and terrorist settlements and by starving the Palestinian population. He also said: It is the Arabs' duty to forget their differences in order to reach total support for the Palestinian cause at this decisive stage. He added that Israel has many aims, and in addition to its rejection of peace and imposing a special map in the region, Israel is trying to light the fuse of war in the Arab world.

As for the direct and indirect results of the legislative elections in Israel and the presidential elections in the United States on the Middle East peace process, brother Faysal al-Husayni pointed out that the U.S. objection to the settlement policy has made large strides since the catastrophe which the Arab World knew during the Gulf War, without taking into consideration the results of the elections on Israel's intransigence. [sentence as heard]

He added that if the Americans want to establish stability in the region, then this stability hinges on us because we have the strength to present our rights and to realize them.

In reply to a question about rumors of a change of venue for the peace talks, brother Faysal al-Husayni questioned the aims of such a plan, which the Israelis put forward and which contains simple aims. They are to get further away from Washington and Moscow with the aim of isolating the talks until they reach a bilateral level—for instance, in France with the Syrians, in Cyprus with the Palestinians, and after that, why not in Israel? To this, brother al-Husayni pointed out that it seems clear that negotiations are impossible under occupation.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni added that from now on the issue will not be to meet for the sake of meeting, but for achieving a tangible result.

He concluded by saying that the PLO's choice is to take into account the realities of all events in the international arena and that we shall continue the work for achieving independence and control of Palestinian affairs in response to our people's national interests.

Palestinians View Washington Talks, U.S. Role

JN0903092992 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Mar 92 pp 1, 22

[By Farid al-Khatib]

[Text] Washington—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian team in the bilateral talks with the Israeli delegation, has said that it may be possible to reach agreement with the Israelis on certain details, but it is impossible to reach such an agreement over the basic issues. This, he said, is the main obstacle in the talks between the two parties.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi was responding to a question from AL-RA'Y on whether the Palestinian team can adopt the strategy of the Palestinian state and, in the meantime, pursue the tactic of "take and demand" in the talks with the Israeli delegation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized the Palestinian Arab identity of the West Bank and Gaza, stressing that Israel is a

militaristic occupier that has no sovereignty, except the sovereignty of the occupier. He noted that UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 do not give Israel any sovereignty over the territory and indeed call for Israeli withdrawal. Israel, however, insists that it has sovereignty over the territory and continues to create new facts on the ground, he added.

Two days after the end of the fourth round of bilateral talks and hours before the journey back to the Gaza Strip, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi was asked by AL-RA'Y about the possibility of developing the Israeli proposal through deletion and addition as suggested by an Israeli spokesman. He said: The Palestinian team would be accused of capitulation if we start to take over the administrations from the Israeli occupation. If we leave things to go Israel's way, we will end up with a disaster, especially since Israel continues to create facts on the ground to determine the final status of the territory. We cannot ignore this fact because the settlement issue is at the heart of the problem.

These statements by the head of the Palestinian team are believed to be in response to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's request that halting settlement activities should not be set as a condition for continuing the talks.

Nevertheless, in his statements to AL-RA'Y, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi agreed that the Palestinian team can deal with the Israeli plan from the angle of holding elections, which Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, said in a press conference is a negotiable subject.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that the Palestinian people are determined to set up, through negotiations, an elected self-rule authority which draws its powers from the people.

In a related development, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Palestine National Council's Political Committee, spoke at a luncheon meeting hosted by the Palestinian Center for Political Studies and the Arab-American Foundation at the Hyatt Park Hotel. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that during a meeting at the U.S. State Department on Wednesday afternoon, Baker advised him not to be absorbed with the difficult subjects, but to start with the issues over which an agreement can be reached.

Responding to Baker's fears that the Palestinian team may withdraw from the negotiations, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: Despite the deadlock, we are still very committed to the principle of peace.

Asked about the possibility of the United States accepting Israel's completion of the construction of existing settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in accordance with the Leahy principle—namely, to deduct one dollar from the U.S. loan guarantees for every dollar Israel spends on these settlements—'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that settlement activities run counter to the possibilities of peace. He said: If the United States does anything that runs contrary to this concept, it will send us a very negative message.

In light of the congressional discussions on Israel's request for U.S. loan guarantees, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said he appreciates the courage and integrity of Mr. Baker, who adhered to the position he stressed time and again—that settlement activities run contrary to the chances of peace in the region. He said he is pleased with this position, which he believes is very, very encouraging.

Dr. Sha'th said: We are fully committed to the process as long as it promises to alleviate our people's suffering and lead to peace in the region. While the Palestinian people are paying a heavy price for the peace negotiations, the Israelis are escalating their settlement policy, persecution, and violation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, he added.

Nevertheless, he believed a fundamental success has been achieved as a result of the peace negotiations. Yitzhaq Shamir's government has fallen because it discussed autonomy with the Palestinian people's representatives. The shadow government, headed by Shim'on Peres, has also fallen and Yitzhaq Rabin has assumed leadership. The number of Israelis favoring peace with Palestinians based on exchanging land for peace has risen from 50 percent before the U.S. President's speech last March, in which he launched the Middle East peace initiative following the Gulf war, to 62 percent following Baker's eight tours of the Middle East in preparation for the peace conference. The percentage even rose to 78 following the Madrid peace conference. Moreover, the peace process has generated circumstances enabling the U.S. Administration to declare and support a policy that links aid to Israel with an Israeli action toward the extremely important issue of settlements. This policy is basic for the success of the peace process and the United States can pursue this policy without worrying about being accused of antagonizing Israel or of being anti-Semitic.

Sha'th noted that the United States has not yet played the role of a driving force at the negotiating table. He believed that this might become essential because both the Palestinian and Israeli plans cannot actually be bridged right now. He called on the United States to push the concerned parties at the right time toward abiding by the rules of the game and presenting substantive proposals conducive to progress. Sha'th called for supporting the Palestinian people, halting settlement activity, implementing the Geneva conventions, barring human right violations, and easing their economic straits.

He stated that 'Abd-al-Shafi and 'Ashrawi held a lengthy meeting with congressmen to discuss West Bank and Gaza Strip elections of legislative and executive councils according to the draft Palestinian plan. He deemed these meetings very positive.

Sha'th said nothing prevents the Palestinian team from leading the Arab delegations in concluding an accord with the Israeli delegation, because the Palestinian delegation is negotiating the provisional status while the Arab delegations are negotiating the final status.

Palestinian Delegate Evaluates Talks

NC0603072092 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Statement by and interview with Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington, on the outcome of talks, by unidentified MBC correspondent on 5 March—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Khatib] The most important thing about the talks was that the Palestinian delegation was seen in a positive light. This was the case in the media and was the impression the U.S. Administration obtained, especially when we submitted a major document indicating our serious intentions on the content of the talks.

The second important result was that the Israeli stand became even more isolated. Finally, though most important, this round has helped to increase the pressure against the Israeli settlement policy.

[Correspondent] Do you believe progress can take place in upcoming rounds without more effective American intervention?

[Al-Khatib] I believe the United States has intervened. I am one of those people who believe that the United States intervenes on a semi-daily basis in these talks. U.S. pressure on the settlement issue can only be called intervention. I believe that this U.S. intervention has an important and vital role. It might increase in future stages in light of increasing Israeli belligerence.

[Correspondent] Do we have to wait for the results of Israeli elections to learn the fate of the talks?

[Al-Khatib] Most definitely. The current government is not prepared to contribute toward making progress in these talks. We hope there will be a government that is more serious about the peace process.

Syrian Delegation Leader Interviewed

PM0603100492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Mar 92 p 3

[Interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace negotiations, by Muhammad Sadiq in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace negotiations, has confirmed that so far there has been no progress in the negotiations because the Israeli delegation is determined not to allow the talks to move forward a single inch and insists on raising provocative issues unrelated to the essence of the peace negotiation process sponsored by the United States.

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he talked about the dilemma of the negotiations, future possibilities, and the U.S. role in the negotiations now that the United States has become the main sponsor. He expressed the hope that the chances of success would ultimately outweigh the chances of failure. He described the role of the U.S. sponsor as positive, noting that a sponsor should try to create circumstances that will ensure that the peace process is not frozen, by remaining the driving force behind it.

With regard to the role played by the U.S. sponsor so far and his expectation of a more effective role in view of the results of the past sessions, he said:

[Al-'Allaf] Regrettably, as in the previous rounds, we cannot view what happened in the first week of the fourth round with any optimism. This, because the Israeli side did not allow the negotiations to advance a single inch toward the desired objective. Yes, there were discussions on fundamental issues such as the interpretation of Resolution 242. However, Israel's distorted interpretation of that resolution and, more seriously, its introduction of provocative matters and issues whenever we broached fundamental points, proved that Israel did not come here to seek a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

[Sadiq] If that is the case, on what basis are you resuming the negotiations?

[Al-'Allaf] If the Arab side were to rely on Israeli goodwill, the peace process would not have started. We rely on the fact that the international community no longer accepts a continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the consequent occupation of Arab territories. [passage omitted] We depend on the seriousness of the conference's cosponsors and on international pressure. We will continue with the peace process as long as we have not lost hope for the intervention of these powers.

[Sadiq] You mentioned the cosponsors and their roles. Does the Russian cosponsor still have a role to play in the process?

[Al-'Allaf] The Russian cosponsor is preoccupied with its own internal issues and problems. Furthermore, the initiative came originally from the U.S. cosponsor, specifically in President Bush's speech to Congress in 1991. The U.S. cosponsor says that it consults its Russian counterpart, but it is the U.S. sponsor that is important, because it has power and influence over the aggressor in this conflict, namely, Israel. That is why it matters to us what the U.S. sponsor does.

[Sadiq] How do you assess what it has done? Do you expect a more effective role and do you expect more intervention by it, and, if so, when?

[Al-'Allaf] Naturally. Since we maintain that no progress has been made so far, it is obvious that the sponsor, who pledged to be the driving force behind the process, must intervene at the appropriate time. We are not saying that it should intervene today, but if this round passes and, like previous rounds, produces no results, then the U.S. sponsor must take steps to ensure that the peace process is not frozen as a result of the Israeli maneuvers intended to prevent any progress.

[Sadiq] When is the appropriate time for U.S. intervention?

[Al-'Allaf] Frankly, regardless of whether or not the sponspor intervenes, we do not expect much from Israel before the Israeli elections in June. Most likely, no more bilateral rounds will be held before the result of the Israeli elections becomes known. [passage omitted]

[Saddiq] Does the session you are expected to resume this week seem doomed to failure?

[Al-'Allaf] It is difficult to say that I am 100 percent sure that this round will end in complete failure, because that would mean that we have permitted Israel to undermine the peace process for four full months and four rounds. The sponsor assured us that it would like to see this round making some progress. We want to see what the conference sponsor intends to do. We have not asked anything from it. As I said at the press conference, it does not need an official request to intervene. [passage omitted]

We believe that if the sponsor were to realize next week that Israel would continue to prevent any progress, it would intervene. I do not rule out the possibility that Baker himself might talk to the chief delegates to ensure progress or at least to take measures, make proposals, or try to activate the process and point it in the right direction. I do not rule out the possibility that he might contact us during this round, which Baker timed to coincide with his presence in Washington, if he perceived no progress at all, in order to boost it. I believe that the United States will evaluate the results of these talks and take a stand accordingly.

[Sadiq] You mentioned the Israeli elections. Will they affect the process, and will the U.S. elections affect the process?

[Al-'Allaf] The Israeli elections are directly connnected. The Israeli Government will claim that this is an election period and that it cannot commit itself to anything. It will avoid making any commitment to the peace process and to fulfilling the foundations on which the process is based.

The U.S. elections are something else. They are not directly linked to the peace process except, insofar as President Bush was the one who took the initiative. So, I believe that the American people would like the peace process to succeed and would like to see an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Success and progress in the peace process would probably benefit President Bush. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] The Israelis have raised the issue of Syrian Jews. What is the real aim behind this?

[Al-'Allaf] The Jews resort to such tactics whenever they want to divert attention from the main issue, which is the peace process, and from their own aggressive, expansionist, and settlement policies. They make allegations about some Arabs [as published] in Arab territories because of their Jewish religion. This reflects the Israeli racist mentality which discriminates between people on the basis of their religion.

We do not accept or condone that mentality and we do not give Israel the right to interfere in the affairs of Syrian citizens whose religion happens to be Judaism. [passage omitted]

At any rate, whether Israel raises their "issue" or not, the Jewish Syrian citizens have the same rights and duties as the Syrian citizens of other religions. We find it strange that such an issue is raised by a state such as Israel, which discriminates against, persecutes, and represses the Arab population in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] What about Israel's insistence all along that the venue be moved from Washington? It has been reported that some Arab parties do not object to that.

[Al-'Allaf] Regrettably, what has been said about this is inaccurate. The Arab delegations have not agreed, and will not agree, to the venue of the negotiations being moved to the Middle East, for the simple reason that the region at present suffers from Israeli occupation. It would not be in the interest of the peace process to move the talks now to the region where there is Israeli aggression, because the whole purpose of the peace process is to end the Israeli aggression and occupation. There is a very slight difference between some parties which say, we prefer to remain in Washington—but if that is impossible then we could think about some other venue, but not the Middle East, and such states as Syria which insists that Washington is the right place because the sponsor is there. [passage omitted]

Nusaybah Sees 'Temporary Halt' to Talks

TA0303180792 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 2 Mar 92 p 2

[Interview with Dr. Sari Nusaybah, member of Palestinian delegation's Advisory Guidance Committee, by Khalid Abu-'Akir; date and place not given]

[Text] Q: For the first time, the U.S. administration publicly declared its intention to not give Israel loan guarantees unless it stops its settlement activities. How do you see this?

A: This is a step in the right direction. In order for the United States to maintain a consistent international

policy, it has to treat all international law equally. Israel's settlement policy violates both international law as well as U.S. foreign policy. Therefore, if the United States is to do more than pay lip service to international laws where it concerns Israel, it must adopt a clear system of punitive measures against Israel as long as the latter flaunts all calls for it to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Q: What kind of measures?

A: The United States proved extremely adept in its handling of Iraq, and succeeded in mustering a unique international backing for its policies. The possibilities today with Israel should not be hard to imagine, even if only on the level of economic measures.

Q: How will this impact the ongoing peace process?

A: Israel can continue to violate international legitimacy in spite of the U.S. decision to link its loan guarantees to Israeli cessation of settlement activity. In other words, failing to put more serious pressure on Israel, the latter can continue its building of settlements. Therefore, the U.S. decision will not of itself guarantee the success of the peace process.

However, it will certainly help to make the Arab side begin to view the United States more in the light of a credible co-sponsor to the process. I repeat, it is not enough, but it is a step in the right direction.

Q: What do you think will happen if Israel refuses to accept American conditions on the loan guarantees issue?

A: I believe the U.S. administration will stick to its decision. The rest is up to Israel and in particular to the Israeli voting public. The U.S. decision, together with its ramifications on the one hand, and the readiness of the Arab world to make peace with Israel on the other, will clearly influence the way the Israeli voter will behave in the next elections. Therefore, we will be faced with interesting political developments as a result of this decision.

Q: The fourth round of peace talks in Washington is facing failure as a result of the wide gap between Arab and Israeli viewpoints regarding the definition of U.N. Security Council resolution 242, settlements, and the interim period in the occupied territories. Do you think this will lead the peace process to a deadlock?

A: My feeling is that, at one point or another before the next Israeli elections, and unless the position of the Israeli negotiators suddenly and fundamentally change, there will be a temporary halt to the talks. The Likud's interest is in going through the form of having negotiations with the Arabs, in order to maintain power and then not to make any concessions. I don't believe the Palestinians will want to help the Likud in this enterprise.

Q: Do you think that there is any use in pursuing the peace negotiations during Israel's election season?

A: We have to show the Israeli public our willingness to reach peace. But we also have to convey the message that it is impossible to reach peace with the Likud, unless the Likud changes its philosophy. Any new rounds of talks with Israel must be governed by this imperative.

Q: A new leader was elected for the Labor Party. Do you think that, if elected as prime minister, this will give a chance for headway in the peace process?

A: Labor with (Yitzhaq) Rabin as head has a better chance at gaining more seats in the next Knesset. If Labor joins in a coalition with the Likud to form the next government (or if, as is more likely, it is able to set up a minority government), there will be better prospects for progress in the talks on interim arrangements with the Palestinians. However, the chances are that the peace process as a whole will still require further positive political changes in Israel before we can feel that real progress is being made.

Q: Will the Palestinians discuss interim arrangements before a settlement freeze and a cessation to human rights violations?

A: The Palestinians have two pre-agenda items in their negotiating package. These are: a halt in settlement activity, and the application of the Fourth Geneva Conventions to the occupied territories. Strictly speaking, it makes no sense to discuss the details of an interim arrangement before the requirements are met.

Practically speaking, given the Likud conception of the interim arrangement, it seems useless to engage the present Israeli negotiating team in any substantive talks on the details of the interim arrangement.

As a result, I do not foresee the possibility of having any substantive negotiations over the interim period unless the present Israeli team changes its position—either as a result of internal re-appraisal, or as a result of outside intervention, or both.

Al-Husayni on Earlier Nusaybah Remarks

TA0403195292 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Mar 92 pp 1, 11

[Telephone interview from Washington with Faysal al-Husayni, "head of the Palestinian negotiating team," by Ibrahim Barzaq; date not given]

[Text] [Barzaq] In an exclusive statement to AL-MANAR, Dr. Sari Nusaybah stressed that there is no use in continuing the negotiations in light of the Israeli intransigence. What is your comment?

[Al-Husayni] In light of the Israeli intransigence, we can say that nothing will come of the negotiations, and this will lead to halting or hindering the negotiations. It should be clear to everyone that the Israeli side bears the

responsibility, but we cannot say that the negotiations are useless. Negotiations are one means by which the Israeli authorities can be put to the test before international and local public opinion. The truth will be revealed that they are in fact trying to gain time without endeavoring to achieve any progress in the peace process.

[Barzaq] Those opposing the peace conference say that their opposition stems from Israeli intransigence and their prior knowledge of this intransigence. What have you got to say now that Israeli intransigence has been completely affirmed?

[Al-Husayni] This is a political battle. Consequently, it is not enough that we Palestinians be convinced of a certain thing. In a political process involving other parties, all those parties should also reach the same conviction. Then we will ultimately win the battle. Consequently, we should not, on the basis of our own assessment, say that we do not want to enter into this or that domain. We must take into consideration that the political equation has several sides. In the final analysis, we should strive to achieve our goals by creating a momentum that will serve our objectives. This cannot be done except through participation in the peace process while at the same time adhering to the Palestinian goals and the Palestinian path.

[Barzaq] Most members of the Palestinian delegation stressed the previous time that the U.S. media are moving in a direction opposite to that of the Palestinian delegation. Why the insistence on not transferring the talks from Washington?

[Al-Husayni] We are not insisting on not transferring the talks from Washington, but the clear and only insistence of the Palestinian delegation is not to hold the talks under occupation or in other countries where we might face difficulties because of lack of diplomatic representation for us there. Otherwise, we believe that it is possible to transfer the talks to another city, but we also want the transfer to be justified. If we wish to transfer the talks from one place to another, we at least would like to know the reason, and why should this transfer take place at this time?

[Barzaq] Currently Israel is intransigent and negotiations with it in this round and previous rounds have been futile. Will you ask the cosponsors of the talks, the United States and Russia, to intervene officially?

[Al-Husayni] At a certain moment, yes. When everyone, not only us, becomes clearly convinced that the peace process is reaching a dead end, then the rules of the peace process itself will cause the cosponsors to intervene.

[Barzaq] What do you expect from the United States if you officially ask for its intervention with the purpose of emerging from the empty circle in which Israel has placed everyone?

[Al-Husayni] The United States is now engaged in a battle with Israel over settlement activity. Consequently, we would very much like to witness and ascertain the outcome of this confrontation, by which a decision will be made as to whether settlement activity or aid will be halted. At that time we will be able to say that the United States has taken a certain step that promotes the peace process. Then we will ask it to take further steps.

[Barzaq] There is a clause in the letter of U.S. assurances presented to the Palestinian side that says that talks about the transitional phase should end a year after the beginning of negotiations. In your view, is the U.S. position on these assurances firm or has it shifted?

[Al-Husayni] So far, the United States has insisted that the meetings and the transfer from one phase to another take place at their specified date. We hope that this will apply to the start of the transitional phase at the end of this year. This could change and be postponed by days or weeks. On the basis of our experience, there is a U.S. tendency to adhere to the fixed dates.

[Barzaq] We know that the negotiations will be protracted. If the negotiations go on for several years, Israel will devour the remaining territories through settlement activity. What will remain for the Palestinian negotiator to do at the negotiating table?

[Al-Husayni] If anyone believes that negotiations are a substitute for struggle and resistance on the ground, he is making a mistake. If the struggle continues, there is no harm in continuing the negotiations, because I can ask you also: Will halting the negotiations lead to a halt in settlement activity? And will we find ourselves in a better situation in four years if we suspend the negotiations?

[Barzaq] Do you believe that there is negligence by the Arab and Palestinian community in moral and propaganda support for the Palestinian delegation?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that they are working within their capabilities. I cannot say that they are negligent. There are very active elements who are trying to do a lot of things, but I believe that they have to be better organized. They have to penetrate further into the U.S. community and breach the wall of U.S. expectation.

[Barzaq] What is your message to the Palestinian people?

[Al-Husayni] No people have achieved victory only through the negotiating table and no people have achieved victory only through struggle. These two elements should continue together whether on the ground or in diplomatic negotiations. We can achieve our goals if these elements rely on each other and work jointly. Our problem is not an easy one, but recently we have managed to achieve good progress on all levels. We should continue to adhere to, support, and escalate this trend.

Inter-Arab Affairs

APU Libya Mediation Trip Termed 'Successful'

JN0803084792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A pan-Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) delegation, which toured four nations to advocate Libya's stand vis-a-vis Western threats regarding airline bombings, has carried out a successful mission and drawn favourable response from the leaders of the four countries, according to Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, the head of the delegation.

Dr. al-'Akayilah, whose team visited China, India, Pakistan and Iran in the past month, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that these countries have pledged to exert efforts to find a settlement to Libya's dispute with the West over alleged Libyan involvement in the downing of two aircraft.

The leaders of the four nations have pledged to refuse any forms of threat or the use of force in a bid to settle this dispute. They objected to the imposition of sanctions on Libya, Dr. al-'Akayilah noted. He said these countries demanded that more time and effort should be given to diplomacy to reach a political solution.

The delegation, comprising representatives from the parliaments of Jordan, Syria, Yemen and Palestine, met with heads of governments and legislative authorities in the countries as well as heads of political groups to present Libya's views.

The APU had decided that four delegtations be formed from Arab parliaments to tour Asian, African, American and European nations to explain Libya's views about the dispute with the Western nations.

Dr. al-'Akayilah, a member of the Lower House of Parliament from the Muslim Brotherhood Bloc, described the team's visit to the four countries as successful.

Libya has been accused of involvement in the downing of a Pan American aircraft over Scotland in 1988 and a French airliner over Niger in 1989. Western countries have been demanding the handing over of those accused of involvement to stand trial in the West.

The U.N. Security Council has told Libya to hand over the suspects to stand trial on charges of planting explosives aboard the Pan Am plane. U.N. Secretary General Butrus Ghali said last Wednesday that Libya has refused to hand them over.

The U.N. Security Council passed a resolution in January calling for Libya to cooperate with the American, British and French demands on the crashes.

Palestinian Affairs

Peace Talks Delegation Returns to Amman

JN0803074192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Mar 92 p 21

[Text] Amman—A number of members of the negotiating team of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks arrived in Amman last night from Washington.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the delegation; Faysal al- Husayni, head of the delegation's advisory council; Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation's official spokeswoman; and Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, delegation member, were not among those who arrived.

Al-Majali Assesses Latest Talks

JN0803180192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali returned to Amman this evening. Assessing the fourth round of talks with the Israeli delegation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said:

[Begin al-Majali recording] As a matter of fact, during this round there were serious attempts by the two parties to set an agenda. We presented an agenda and they presented one. There was an attempt to make the two agree. We could not do that because there were some major obstacles, given that we give precedence to Resolution 242, which is the basic reference point for all negotiations, and the acceptance and implementation of this resolution. We then had settlement activity on our agenda, which is a basic topic for us. We cannot engage in discussions on any other topics before we make sure that this topic is clear in the mind of the other party. Regrettably, of course, there was no noticeable progress in the Israeli side's position in relation to both issues. But this did not prevent us from holding informal discussions with members of the delegations with regard to other technical points such as water, the environment, and other topics. Members of the delegations spoke informally to each other. Also, in the negotiations hall there was a review of some of these points, but we cannot discuss them and negotiate them before we are finished with the basic points. [end recording]

As for the date and venue of the next negotiations, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said:

[Begin al-Majali recording, in progress] ...true matter, but there are several suggestions. A meeting, for example, is suggested for either the second or last week of next month. It is more likely that the meeting will be held in Washington, because so far we have not agreed to change the venue. We still insist that we will not change the venue before real prospects for negotiations are in sight. So far we have not sensed that there are such prospects to make us believe that it is necessary to

change the venue. However, the sponsor asked all of the delegations' governments to present a list of 10 capitals or venues for the meeting so that the sponsor will take the list into consideration when a decision is made on changing the venue. The list does not necessarily concern the next meeting. [end recording]

Al-Majali on Israeli Elections

JN0803185892 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The Jordanian delegation to the peace talks returned to Amman following its participation in the fourth bilateral round which concluded in Washington last week. Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the delegation, spoke to our political affairs correspondent about the results of this round:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted] Do you think that there is a way to overcome the clear disparity between the Arab delegations and the Israeli delegation on implementing Resolution 242 in the future?

[Al-Majali] No doubt after the third and fourth rounds in Washington the U.S. sponsor has been apprised of what happened. We believe that it will intervene to make the negotiating process come closer to success.

[Correspondent] We have noticed, Dr. al-Majali, that some delegations have suggested postponing the peace negotiations until after the Israeli elections. What is Jordan's position on this suggestion?

[Al-Majali] I believe that the extent to which progress in the negotiations could affect the Israeli elections is not yet clear. This issue should be studied by the concerned governments, however, and a basic plan should be drawn up. If the Arab states find that it is in their interest to engage in negotiations, fine. Otherwise, negotiations could be postponed until after the Israeli elections. [end recording]

PLO's al-Najjab on Possible Postponement

LD0703190492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab announced that there is a proposal, which could soon be put forward to the Palestinian leadership, to suspend the bilateral talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis until after the elections in Israel so that Prime Minister Shamir cannot appear to continue the settlement process while continuing the peace negotiations.

Al-Najjab said in an interview with the Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH, and which was published today, that in the face of increasing Israeli stubbornness blocking the way to any serious progress in the peace process, we were not surprised at the course taken by the Israeli delegation, particularly after the opening of the electoral contest in Israel.

Al-Najjab reiterated the Palestinians' attachment to their conditions as represented in achieving serious progress in bilateral talks, and in securing the participation of the Palestinians in multilateral talks as a people with national rights, a people who are recognized when dealing with and solving problems and issues facing all the peoples of the region, the foremost issue of which is the right to self-determination.

'National Palestinian Conference' Reviews Talks

LD0603212692 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] A national Palestinian conference has been held to assess the position in connection with the bilateral talks which took place in Washington.

The final conference communique warned against accepting the self-government formula which Israel is suggesting, and it called on the intifadah of the Palestinian people to continue.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Meets With King Husayn

Conveys Message From 'Arafat

LD0703183592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn received this afternoon Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, who conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from his brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the rest of the Palestinian leadership. The message concerns current developments, particularly following the end of the latest round of the Washington talks and the Jordanian monarch's decision to undertake a wide international tour. The message also concerns issues relating to the consolidation of bilateral relations and joint coordination during the next phase.

They also discussed the situation inside the occupied Palestinian territories, continued Israeli violations, the settlement campaign aiming at imposing the fait accompli by force, and the issue of honorable Jerusalem. His majesty the king reaffirmed that such issues will be the subject of extreme interest, particularly during his talks with the heads of the states which he is to visit.

They agreed to continue contacts and meetings at the highest level over the next few weeks, particularly so that the Jordaninans and the Palestinians have relations of brotherhood and common destiny at all levels and in all fields. [passage omitted]

Comments on Talks

JN0703184792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Today at the royal court at noon His Majesty King Husayn received PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. [passage omitted] After emerging from the meeting, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] I met with his majesty the king to deliver a letter from brother Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership concerning current developments, especially in light of the latest round of the peace talks. As is known, at the peace talks we presented a significant Palestinian political document which makes the point that until there is a complete halt to settlement activity, the implementation of the Geneva Convention, and an end to Israeli violations against our Palestinian people in the occupied lands, the peace process can hardly make any headway. Nor will it be possible to proceed to the interim stage. The Palestinian document also underscores the need for a commitment to international legitimacy, especially Resolution 242, and that the interim stage must be based on these resolutions to assure the rights of the Palestinians and to ensure a full withdrawal from the occupied lands. As one team in the joint delegation, we have the same perspective on these bases and aims. The Jordanian and Palestinian sides stand for the need to implement Resolution 242 and other resolutions relevant to the Palestinian cause and the Israeli occupation. The two sides are also working together to bring about a cessation to settlement building as the key to advancing to other stages. [end recording]

Meanwhile, His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh in his office at the Prime Ministry. Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir and Palestinian Ambassador to Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim attended the meeting.

Views Confederation With Jordan

JN0903095492 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Mar 92 pp 1, 22

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has affirmed that "the issue of a confederation of Jordan and Palestine is not new. The Palestinian legislative institutions adopted a decision to establish a confederation which will be linked with finding a solution to the Palestine question and with realizing self-determination for the Palestinian people."

'Abd-Rabbuh added: "There are historical and pan-Arab factors as well as close interests that make us consider confederation a strategic matter, not a transient matter or tactical political objective." In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "Nothing prevents us from discussing this matter from the present to reinforce our common political march, on the one hand, and to strengthen our ties on the other."

'Abd-Rabbuh affirmed that "a confederation between our countries stems from the fact that this confederation will not encroach on Palestinian sovereignty and self-determination for the Palestinian people. These objectives do not conflict with the Jordanian position. On the contrary, the Palestinian and Jordanian positions are integrated."

He said that "Palestinian sovereignty over the Palestinian territory is a common Jordanian-Palestinian objective and an affirmation of Jordan's independence, position, and role." 'Abd-Rabbuh stated: "We believe that we should seek whatever strengthen our ties as long as this serves our common objectives of ending occupation and realizing Palestinian self-determination."

'Abd-Rabbuh noted: "Five months after the Madrid conference and the formation of the joint delegation, we feel that there is a need to review the previous march to strengthen the unity of action between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, as well as to coordinate the next steps." He added: "We proceeded from a formula of joint agreement that defines the desired objectives, particularly the implementation of Resolution 242 guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national rights, rejecting separate solutions, and considering the cessation of settlements to be a necessary condition for moving to the stage of discussing arrangements for an interim period in the negotiations. We must underscore that both the Jordanian and Palestinian sides were committed to these bases in the negotiations. Consultations and coordination continued between the two sides with regard to all developments or surprises that accompanied the negotiations."

'Abd-Rabbuh observed: "When we speak about conducting a review, we mean to underscore these bases on the one hand, and to search for the next steps that will guarantee the negotiating process in accordance with the rules that we agreed upon, and in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy, on the other."

The PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department said: "Our position is well known, and we underscored it in the Palestinian document that our delegation presented during the recent talks in Washington. Halting settlements is the first step, and the transitional arrangements, whose main factors were defined by the document, should be in line with the content and provisions of Resolution 242 and the UN resolutions issued since the partition [resolution]. The transitional arrangements should lead to self-determination, independence, and resolving the problem of refugees in accordance with Resolution 194."

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh stated: "Ahead of us lies the situation of the next few months, before the Israeli elections in June. Shall we or shall we not continue with the

negotiations." This issue should be studied by the Palestinians and Jordanians together with the brothers in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and the other involved Arab parties to adopt a unified position." He declared: "We must thoroughly study whether or not halting the negotiations will serve Shamir's extremist policy and help him convince the Likud masses that it is the Arab side which is responsible for obstructing the peace process."

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "Deriving lessons from the past four round of talks and defining a common position require a four-or five-way Arab meeting in the coming weeks. We would like to see representatives of the Gulf states and the Arab Maghreb participate in this meeting, as happened in the Damascus meeting last October before the convening of the Madrid conference." He affirmed that contacts will be held with the Arab parties to achieve this goal in the near future.

PLO Planning International 'Diplomatic Campaign'

LD0903095892 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] The Middle East peace talks will give impetus to a large-scale diplomatic campaign which the PLO intends to launch in the very near future to explain its position to the Islamic and European countries, Canada, Japan, and Russia concerning the bilateral talks and the Palestinian negotiators' proposals on the transitional period, which caused a lot of controversy in Washington during the fourth round of talks.

Informed sources affirmed in a statement to the Tunisian paper AL-SABAH, and published in Tunis yesterday, that the European countries are the targets of the campaign due to their well-known and definite stands concerning the Palestinian people's attainment of their legitimate rights, the foremost of which is their right to self-determination.

Algeria

Boudiaf Clarifies Remarks on 1988 Events, FLN

LD0903010792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The upcoming edition of the Egyptian weekly ROSE AL-YUSUF publishes an interview with Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, in which it attributed a few remarks to Boudiaf.

In response to the report, Mr. Boudiaf has presented the following clarifications: In his interview with the correspondent Mr. Boudiaf says that he did not in any way analyze the responsibility for the painful events of 1988 or attribute responsibility to any group, individual, or center of authority. Consequently, he considers the remarks attributed to him to be untrue in regard to the possible responsibility of the secret police. Boudiaf declares that the reasoning behind the events is still unknown.

As for Mr. Boudiaf's opinion of and stand on the National Liberation Front [FLN], the remarks in the interview constitute a historical recollection of his opinion and convictions at that time; they do not constitute in any way his attitude vis-a-vis the FLN in 1992.

The confusion caused by the interview in the weekly remains to be countered. The Egyptian magazine on Sunday referred to the main points of the interview it will be publishing in its next issue. The magazine said that Mr. Boudiaf has declared that the FLN has been dead since 1962 and that the secret police are behind the events of October 1988.

Brahimi Criticizes 'Hastily Launched' Politics

LD0603210992 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The Algerian foreign minister has ended his visit to France. Lakhdar Brahimi, who is pleased with the understanding of the French authorities, did not hesitate when he was interviewed by Philippe Harrouard to indulge in self-criticism on the policy of the Algerian authorities toward the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] since 1988:

[Begin recording] [Brahimi] The multiparty system was hastily launched following the events of 1988. The law on parties leaves much to be desired although it was made clear in the texts, in the Constitution, and in the law on parties that a party with a religious basis is not permitted in Algeria. We have in fact legalized the FIS and the other Islamic parties.

[Harrouard] Minister, do you think that the FIS remains a threat today after all that has happened?

[Brahimi] The FIS has certainly been considerably weakened. I think that the biggest force of the FIS and the basis of its strength were the mosques. The mosques have been taken from it. It has thus lost, if you like, its main base. But there is no doubt that one should remain vigilant because it has organized armed groups. [end recording]

Confirms New Stand on Western Sahara

LD0603223992 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The Algerian foreign minister held a news conference at the end of his visit to France. Lakhdar Brahimi returned to the issue of Western Sahara. He implicitly confirmed the shift of the Algerian stand and the end of unconditional support for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro:

[Begin Brahimi recording] The project was accepted by the two people and both parties [words indistinct] to consider difficulties with both parties and see how they can be solved. As for the issue of the Sahara, we now have a basis which is accepted by all and a process set up by the United Nations. The way in which Algeria can help is to try to see if we can solve these difficulties, and following President Boudiaf's initiative contacts have been established. Talks will start to try to see how we can overcome these difficulties and move toward a solution to this problem. [end recording]

FIS Communique Asserts 'Calm Before Storm'

LD0703105192 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] There was a new calm in Algeria on Friday, the day of weekly prayers which coincided with the beginning of Ramadan. There have been some clashes in Constantine, however, between supporters of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and riot police. It should be noted that yesterday the FIS chose to make public its reaction to the announcement of its dissolution by the Algiers administrative tribunal. This reaction can by summed up like this: The FIS has not said its last word. Anne Dissez sums up yesterday's events:

[Dissez] Constantine is the only Algerian town in which clashes continued on Friday. Following prayers yesterday one man was killed, several people were wounded, and there were many arrests. In Algiers there has not been an obvious police presence except for some armed men around the el-Sunna Mosque in Bab el-Oued.

Several thousand FIS activists did gather at the Chateau Neuf Mosque. Witnesses recognized some FIS activists and four members of the majlis al-shura, the FIS' consultative council, in the crowd.

Communique No. 21, the FIS's first reaction following its dissolution, was read out at the mosque. In the communique the religious party asserted that the grassroots have not said their last word and that the calm prevailing at the beginning of Ramadan is simply the

calm before the storm. It again promised an uncertain future for Algeria and possibly even civil war.

In mosques farther north, in (Chevalet), Cheikh Sahnoun, who one day after the dissolution of the FIS announced the creation of a gathering of religious associations, said in his sermon that the FIS cannot be dissolved and that Ramadan, which began the same day, would for the first time be a sad occasion and that mourning colors would be worn due to the large number of families who are separated due to arrests.

Country 'Calm' After 6 Mar Clashes

LD0603232692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Calm prevailed throughout the country today, the first Friday of the blessed Ramadan. Only a few gunshots were heard in some Constantine suburbs. Correspondents in Constantine have reported that gunfire was used to disperse several people who tried to gather after Friday prayers.

Batna University To Reopen; Disturbances at Others

LD0903101492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Batna University is expected to open today after Annaba University resumed classes yesterday. The two universities were shut down after the recent disturbances.

These kinds of disturbances began again yesterday at Setif University, while tension is building at the law institute at Ben Aknoun, according to the daily EL-MOUDJAHID.

EC Official Expresses 'Support' for Government

LD0703111192 Algiers APS in English 1016 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Algeria/EEC Brussels, March 7 (APS)—Henri Saby president of Development Commission at the European Parliament and member of the Socialist group of Parliament of Strasbourg announced his group would submit a draft resolution to support the Algerian authorities. On his return from a visit Algeria paid from Feb 29 to March 2, Saby held a press conference in Brussels during which he informed the press about his talks with the prime minister, Sid Ahmed Ghozali and other officials at the government and civilian and trade-union associations.

While announcing the sending of a delegation of parliamentarians to Algeria as well as visits of representatives of Algerian civilian associations, Saby mainly stated Algeria "is recovering its identity and democracy is being soundly set up". "What has been done in Algeria is a challenge and to the Algerians this corresponds to their culture, their religion, their values and to what they wish to: a real pluralist democracy" he concluded.

Egypt

Government Rejects Israeli Requests on Spy Case

JN0803180692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Mustafa Bakri report from Cairo]

[Text] The Egyptian Government has rejected an Israeli request to receive an Israeli delegation that will be allowed to directly question the Israeli members of the espionage network who were recently arrested. Cairo also rejected another request to provide Israel with the files on the investigations.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi recently sent a letter to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa containing this Israeli request. Levi also emphasized in his letter that Cairo should agree to receive six Israeli lawyers next week to review the Egyptians' files on the investigations and to record the remarks they may have on them. Levi affirmed that if the Egyptian Government refuses to receive the lawyers Israel will not recognize any information or documents by the Egyptian Government on this affair.

The Egyptian state prosecutor yesterday decided in the presence of the Israeli consul in Cairo to extend the remanding to custody of two Israeli members of the espionage network and three Egyptians.

Musa Hails Sinai Withdrawal Under Israel's Begin

NC0903121492 Cairo MENA in English 1156 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, March 9 (MENA)—Former Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin who died in hospital in Tel Aviv today respected the principle of land for peace, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said.

Musa added that Begin's decision to withdraw Israeli troops from Sinai in line with the U.N. Resolution 242 and the principle of land for peace had greatly served the peace process.

Musa Discusses Efforts To Resolve Lockerbie Issue

NC0703140392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] London, 7 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the UN secretary general's report noting progress on Libya's stand is a positive development in the case of the Libyan citizens accused of downing a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. He added that Libya also announced that it will refer the case to the International Court of Justice and its charters. This suggests the possibility of a relative break despite reports that Washington, London, and Paris intend to ask the UN Security Council to issue a new resolution against Libya.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Musa expressed his belief that the Security Council will not issue strict resolutions against Libya similar to the ones issued against Iraq after it invaded Kuwait.

Responding to a question on the possibility of the two accused Libyans being handed over to Egypt for trial, Musa said that Egypt does not intend to try the accused on its territory. They might be tried in Tunisia or in some other neutral country such as Sweden.

He clarified that international law does not demand that Libya hand over the accused. There is no extradition treaty between Washington and Tripoli. He said that if they are to be handed over to anyone, it should be the United Nations, for this is the only international organization that can make a legal decision that the whole world will accept.

On his recent talks with Tunisian officials on the Lockerbie case, the Egyptian foreign minister said that Egyptian and Tunisian diplomacy is working to find a solution to this crisis which causes the least damage to Libya and no harm to the image of Arabs who reject terrorism and the blowing up of civilian planes on principle.

Musa added: We demand a trial to absolve ourselves as Arabs from the accusation of terrorism.

In response to a question, Musa described relations with Sudan as strong and historical. He said: This is why we seek to develop our cooperation with the Sudanese brothers.

As for reports on the existence of relations between the extremists in Egypt and those in Tunisia and Sudan, he said that Egypt believes that supporting acts of violence in the name of Islam does not serve Islam. He affirmed that Egypt will not show leniency with "those who tamper with the security of Egypt and its borders." The Egyptian foreign minister denied that Egypt has border problems with Sudan.

Regarding the Middle East peace negotiations, Musa demanded that these negotiations be continued despite any obstacles that might crop up due to blatant Israeli belligerence.

Musa concluded his interview by saying: We should continue negotiations because this is the only way that we can realize our just and legitimate Arab demands.

Comments on Peace Talks, Iranian Ties

NC0803093192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0738 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Arab-Israeli negotiations are not deadlocked although there are no positive signs. He said that it is necessary to insist on the continuation of negotiations, as well as on the principle of land for peace, halting the Israeli settlement process, and restoring Arab legitimate rights.

Speaking at a meeting of the National Democratic Party's political club last night, Musa said: We are negotiating for a transitional phase of negotiations to reach a stage of negotiations to determine the ultimate situation on the basis of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their land.

He emphasized the importance of addressing world public opinion and said that the world must know what goes on at the negotiations and whether or not there is progress.

Commenting on the outcome of his recent talks in Tunis with Palestinian officials, he said that an agreement was reached on the need to continue the Arab-Israeli negotiations, and that the talks touched on bilateral relations and the regional situation.

Concerning Egyptian-Iranian relations and reported mediation efforts by the Arab Gulf countries between Egypt and Iran, Musa denied any Gulf mediation and clarified that there is no enmity between Egypt and Iran. He noted that Iran is a fraternal and major regional country which we do not want to boycott. He pointed out that some outstanding issues have to be settled before paving the way for relations between the two countries.

As for the fate of Egyptians' funds in Iraq, he said that all Iraqi assets in the world are frozen and that Egyptians' rights are preserved.

On the harassment of some Egyptians in Jordan, Musa said that Egypt has held intense contacts with the Jordanians to end such problems. He added that the Jordanian labor minister recently met with the Egyptian labor, interior, and foreign ministers to eliminate any tension about the matter.

As for the current crisis between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France, the foreign minister said he hoped for a peaceful settlement of this crisis.

Libya

Al-Bishari Urges 'Honorable Solution' to Lockerbie

PM0603140692 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6 Mar 92 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, by 'Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] ['Ajjaj] We ask first about the present situation after the recent Security Council resolution and the plans for a new resolution which might call for an economic and air blockade.

[al-Bishari] Actually, before the Security Council resolution was adopted we said that if this crisis is a legal one it should be resolved through legal means, and if it is political in nature it should be resolved through political means—in other words, implementing internationally recognized principles when any crisis occurs between states. This should be done through direct negotiations or mediation. But the other parties (the United States and Britain) rejected that logic and turned to the Security Council, and the known resolution was issued. We received the resolution and said that we would deal with it positively in accordance with the UN Charter and without harming our country's sovereignty. We asked the UN secretary general—whose mention in the resolution we interpreted, as did the Nonaligned states and China, which are Security Council members, as a mediator—for a certain mechanism for implementing the resolution. We are in regular contact with Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali to find that mechanism in order to implement the resolution, also without harming our country's sovereignty and within the framework of respecting internationally recognized principles in relations between states.

['Ajjaj] In your view, what is the solution to the crisis if each side insists on its position, if Libya insists on respecting legitimacy and not harming its sovereignty, and the other side—the United States, Britain, and France—insists that the defendants be handed over?

[al-Bishari] We are now thinking about finding a solution to this problem. We have been calling for this from the start. If we can manage to sit down and talk with the parties making the allegations, we can find an honorable solution acceptable to all parties so as to safeguard both our rights and theirs. We firmly believe that our citizens are innocent, and actually, we as a state, as a political authority, have no objection to their being tried anywhere in the world except the United States and Britain. And there are other questions, including the Libyan judiciary, the defendants' rights, and human rights. We cannot force them to go anywhere unless the Libyan judiciary so decides or unless they so decide themselves. We might tell them to go stand trial somewhere, and then the Libyan judge assigned to the investigation might refuse. Also, the defendants' lawyer or the defendants themselves might refuse. This is why we asked for contacts to be held between the Libyan judges and the judges in these states to search for the ideal way to find an acceptable solution.

['Ajjaj] Let us consider the statement by the defendants in the case of the bombing of the French plane and their desire to surrender themselves to the French authorities. Paris has not responded positively to this, however.

[al-Bishari] The French position is amazing and strange. We cannot understand it. We contacted France through our ambassador and its ambassador and through the UN secretary general. We told them that we responded to France's demands because they do not harm Libyan sovereignty and because it views the question in a legal way. Two of those mentioned stated their willingness to go meet the French judge, and the Libyan judges invited him to come here. But we have not yet received a reply from the French side. We will continue our contacts with the French in order to attain Libyan-French judicial cooperation and to resolve the problem of the French charges.

['Ajjaj] In view of the U.S. escalation and its turning to the Security Council to adopt a new resolution on economic sanctions or an air blockade, we ask: Are there any Libyan preparations for confronting or dealing with such a resolution?

[al-Bishari] Libya is not alone in this case. Its Arab brothers are with it. Our neighboring states are with it. I believe that the Arab states will not agree to boycott Libya. Egypt, for example, has played a positive role in seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis. President Husni Mubarak himself has made an effective contribution to finding a way out of this crisis, as has his most prominent aide, by virtue of the cordial and excellent ties between Egypt and Libya. I cannot at all imagine Egyptian planes not landing in Libya, Egypt's preventing Libyan planes from landing in Egypt, or Egypt's boycotting Libya. The entire Egyptian people—with all their parties, organizations, and unions—have stood by the Libyan people. This is because in the end we are one people and one country and have one destiny and one future. I believe that if they try to impose the boycott on Libya the Arab states will not adhere to that boycott. There are the Arab Maghreb states, and we are a founding member of the Maghreb Union. I believe that they would not boycott Libya. The same applies to the Gulf states, Syria, and Lebanon. This is because the boycott in such a case is a serious precedent and would be followed by other steps. Perhaps it is Libya today and Syria or Algeria tomorrow, and so on. I also say that the boycott would be aimed not against the Libyan people but against the Arab nation. This is because we are a small people whose material needs are limited. We are not accustomed to eating caviar or salmon or to luxuries. We can live within our limited resources. We fought Italy for 30 years and our casualties totaled 1 million homeless and martyrs. We managed to stand fast and to survive. Besides, Libya's positive, constructive position in this case will cause many world states to hesitate to implement any boycott against us. There are European states which have vital interests in our country. These interests will certainly be jeopardized if a boycott takes place. I cannot imagine many European states implementing such a boycott. We want to avoid such a boycott by finding a reasonable solution acceptable to us and to them.

['Ajjaj] We have noticed your frequent visits to Cairo, two visits in less than a week. Does this have anything to do with some kind of change in the Egyptian position, and did Egypt request the surrender of the Libyans named in the U.S. and French indictments?

[al-Bishari] Egypt has never requested that the defendants be handed over. On the contrary, its position has

been positive in supporting right and justice. My frequent visits to Cairo are part of the regular and continuing consultations between us and officials of the Arab Republic of Egypt, especially after the honorable position adopted by President Mubarak and the Egyptian people on the current crisis and the efforts to find a way out of the dilemma, which will affect not only Libya but also Egypt. This is because any problems will directly affect Egypt's national security, because Libya is an extension of Egypt, and vice versa.

['Ajjaj] It is clear that Libya itself possesses information which accuses other quarters. Why does Libya not use this information to avoid the U.S. escalation?

[al-Bishari] Actually, we requested the evidence and proof from the other side in a letter sent by the investigating judge. They say that a booby-trapped suitcase left Malta for Frankfurt and then London. The Maltese Government, judiciary, and airline conducted an official investigation and issued an official statement which denied that. It stated that no suitcase left without a passenger at that point, so the indictment is void in the first place. If we go to a neutral court the truth will certainly emerge. But the United States has given this case a big political, propaganda, and international dimension. The public is being mislead, for the prime purpose is to subjugate Libyan policy's orientations.

['Ajjaj] In view of the Libyan leadership's awareness of Washington's purposes and its insistence on its citizens' innocence, why does it not hand over the defendants to not give Washington any excuse to pursue its aims?

[al-Bishari] What more can we do than call for a neutral international investigating committee? The Arab League also has called for this, and we still call for such a committee to establish the truth. This is because it is in our interest to identify and punish the culprits. The truth will only emerge with a neutral investigation.

['Ajjaj] How would you assess the Arab position in general on this crisis?

[al-Bishari] It is certainly a positive position. The Arab League issued two resolutions and held two meetings, which confirm the seriousness of the Arab position; otherwise these resolutions would not have been issued and these meetings would not have been held. This is because Libya's position is completely different from that in the crisis of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. We have not occupied another country, nor have we committed an act of aggression against anyone or violated international law or the UN Charter. Nor have we threatened international peace and security. Our political and legal position in this case is sound. On that basis the Arabs have backed us at the political and popular levels.

Denies Nation Has 'Terrorist' Camps

LD0603164492 Tripoli JANA in English 1445 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi' [spring, interchangeable term used to indicate the month of March as the beginning of spring] 6 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ibrahim al-Bishari the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation sent the following message to Dr Butrus Ghali the United Nations secretary general:

Your Excellency Dr Butrus Ghali,

Secretary general of the United Nations:

Dear sir,

Some countries allege that Libya still has some terrorist training camps.

Within the framework of implementing Security Council Resolution No 731 and at a time when I deny the credibility of those allegations we would like to request from your excellency to be so kind as to enquire from those states about where those camps are situated. We wish to affirm our readiness to receive whoever you assign or delegate to ascertain the falsity of those allegations.

Kindly accept our best wishes and compliments.

Judge Says Extradition Not Permitted Under Law

NC0603171792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Mar (MENA)—Counselor Ahmad Tahir al-Zawi, head of the First Circuit for the Libyan Supreme Court, has said that the Libyan criminal code does not permit Libyan defendants to be extradited for trial abroad. He added that this cannot be amended without the approval of the Basic People's Congresses. The General People's Congress, he added, is responsible for drafting the resolutions of the Basic Congresses into legal statutes.

During a news conference al-Zawi was asked about reports that Libya is ready to extradite the suspects in exchange for an improvement in relations and the restoral of ties with the United States. He responded that this is a political matter upon which he has no influence.

During his news conference today in Tripoli the judge said that he still wants to be relieved of his duty as investigating judge due to the intrusion of politics into legal principles, which must govern the case. He noted that the decision on his request to be relieved is up to the Supreme Court's General Assembly, which will meet soon in an extraordinary session to decide the matter.

In response to a question on whether a political decision to extradite the defendants would be legal, al-Zawi noted that Libyan law does not allow citizens to be extradited

to stand trial abroad unless the country seeking extradition proves that the accusation is valid.

Iraqi Trade Minister Tours Factory, Reservoir

LD0603210792 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Banghazi, al-Rabi' 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr. Muhammed Salih Mahdi the Iraqi trade minister went on a visit this morning to the factory of the water pipes of the Great Man Made River where he visited the various sections of the factory and listened to an explanation on the stages of the production of the pipes as well as the material which goes into its production.

The Iraqi trade minister also visited the 'Umar al-Mukhtar Reservoir in the area of Saluq where the minister expressed his amazement at this great achievement which was carried out through the action and [words indistinct] the serious revolution of the Great al-Fatah.

Mauritania

President's Party Wins Boycotted Elections

AB0803085092 Paris AFP in English 0834 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Nouakchott, March 8 (AFP)—The party of the Mauritanian president, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, won the North African country's first multiparty parliamentary elections, which all six opposition parties boycotted, officials said Sunday. The turnout rate was 30 percent, down from 46 percent in the presidential election on January 24.

The Social and Democratic Republican Party (PRDS) won 52 of the 79 seats at stake. It supports Taya, as do the other seven parties that also fielded candidates.

Ahmed Ould Daddah, the loser in the presidential election, claimed Saturday night that the boycott call had succeeded. "The regime is governing with the support of a fraction of the population, in total isolation, against a background of political, economic and social immobility," he told a press conference.

"Independent" candidates took three constituencies, winning four seats. The fate of 10 other constituencies will be decided in the second round of voting which will be contested by the PRDS, the Rally for Democracy and Unity (RDU), and the "Independents."

Two "independent" candidates considered close to the opposition were elected in the first round at Selibaby in the south of the country. This region traditionally favors the opposition.

Elections for the Senate are to be held next month.

Opposition Official Protests 'Fraud'

LD0703170192 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The results of Mauritania's 6 March legislative elections: With the exception of three constituencies—(Sderek), Chinguetti, and Selibaby, where independent candidates were elected—all the seats were swept by the Republican Democratic and Social Party, the ruling party of President Maaouiya Ould Taya. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Mah, of the Popular Union of Social Democrats and who was already the unlucky candidate in the presidential elections, here denounces many irregularities and fraud. He was interviewed by Farida Ayari:

[Begin recording] [Ould Mah] First, we noted a certain amount of fraud, which was reported to the responsible authorities last night. Fraud played an important role here. First, the turnover was very low for a number of reasons which you mentioned yesterday; a boycott was called by a major opposition party and a certain number of opposition parties. Another hurdle was Ramadan, during which people do not go out much. Third, there are no stakes in these legislative elections. The main thing here is that everything is personalized. It was over the minute that the president was elected.

[Ayari] You said that there were no stakes. Why did you participate while most parties boycotted?

[Ould Mah] The decision to participate or not participate belongs to a political party which decides on a sovereign basis. As for the opposition, we have no complex whatsoever on this point because we are in the vanguard of the opposition. Second, we participated because we had a program. We presented four candidates in four constituencies in Nouakchott, and we came second to the government's party. In the other, we came third to two government candidates, namely the official one and the independent. As I said, however, it is not the one with more votes who wins the election but rather the one who has the means to cheat more. These are the three main factors which play a role in these elections: fraud, tribalism, and money. [end recording]

Tunisia

Minister Dismisses 'Damning' Amnesty Report

LD0503142492 Paris Radio France International in French 1845 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Amnesty International has just published a damning report concerning the Tunisian authorities.

The organization affirms that some 8,000 people suspected of being Islamists have been arrested in recent months, they have reportedly often been detained illegally, and above all—I am quoting the Amnesty report—the torture of people suspected of belonging to the Al-Nahdah movement now seems to be routine. The report continues that not only is the government doing little to halt these practices but it

seems to be encouraging them, end quote. These allegations are contested by Fathi Houidi, Tunisian secretary of state for information.

[Begin recording] [Houidi] President of the Republic Zine El Abidine Ben Ali set up a Tunisian commission to conduct an inquiry into this matter, and it published a report. It discovered a certain number of regrettable mistakes but it also concluded that these regrettable mistakes were not part of a policy but rather were isolated acts. An investigation followed, and the people in question will stand trial. Well, who could be made to believe that despite everything in the Tunisia of change, the Tunisia of human rights, the practice of torture is tolerated or encouraged, as the report says? Who could be made to believe that in the Tunisia of today there could be 8,000 prisoners of conscience?

[Correspondent Sophie Malibou] It is the result of an investigation which took into account several hundred eyewitness testimonies from families, doctors, and nurses.

[Houidi] No. Listen, many of these testimonies are word-of-mouth testimonies and I myself cast doubt on them. [end recording]

Deputy Prime Minister Departs for Amman, New York

JN0703100492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0952 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad for Amman this morning en route to New York to attend a special meeting of the Security Council on Wednesday.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz will address the Security Council on Iraq's position vis-a-vis the resolutions passed by the Council.

The delegation includes Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, as well as a number of other officials and experts.

Reportage on Saddam Husayn's Activities

Decorates Armed Forces Commanders

JN0903095992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, has bestowed medals of valor on a number of our valiant Armed Forces commanders and officers, on two heads of departments at the Presidential Office, and on a number of military and media escorts to the president and commander in chief of the armed forces.

These officials were awarded these medals in appreciation of their distinguished role and courage while doing their duty toward their country, people, and nation in the great battle—the Mother of Battles—and in the confrontation against the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and the chapter of treason and treachery against the hireling agent traitors and the scoundrels who infiltrated the homeland from Iran, across our eastern border.

President Saddam Husayn hailed these courageous men, as well as all fighters in our valiant armed forces. His excellency made some valuable remarks on our troops' performance and discussed many of the lessons learned from this eternal epic.

The medal-award ceremony was attended by Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister; Presidential Office chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi; and Staff Gen. Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, Army chief of staff.

Inspects Bridge Construction 7 Mar

JN0703172492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today inspected the construction work being done to repair the 14 July Suspension Bridge which was destroyed by the U.S. aggressors and their allies during the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against our country, Iraq. [passage omitted]

It is worth recalling that this was the third inspection visit of the project by the president. His excellency visited the project on 22 May and 17 December 1991.

Visits Military Industrialization Body

JN0703160992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1558 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has met at the headquarters of the Military Industrialization Organization with a number of scientists, specialists, and researchers involved in a discussion of the manufacturing of some basic material needed in civilian life.

His excellency was received by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic.

Saddam Said Negotiating To Ease Sanctions

NC0603185192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] A Kuwaiti paper has quoted Arab diplomatic sources as saying that the defeated regime is ready to meet all U.S. and international demands in exchange for a freeze to the U.S. plan to overthrow the defeated tyrant.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT today cited these sources as saying that the tyrant's regime requested that Morocco mediate with the United States and ask that it ease the international economic pressure against Iraq and freeze its plan to overthrow Saddam. The paper added that an official delegation from the defeated regime had arrived in Rabat for that purpose. The delegation included Kamil Yasin al-Tirkriti, member of the so-called ruling party's command; (?Qusayy), the tyrant's son; officials from the Foreign and Interior Ministries; and a former ambassador to Morocco.

The sources noted that among the demands that Saddam promised to meet are the full and unconditional implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, support for the Middle East peace process, and the search for a mechanism to allow a U.S. military division to deploy in Baghdad to follow up the implementation directly. The same sources say that the defeated regime stated it would stop developing any weapons without prior approval from Washington. The sources emphasized that these exchanges between the two sides took place in mid-February.

The sources emphasized that King Hassan II of Morocco was not enthusiastic about the mediation effort. He reportedly told the defeated regime's delegation that things have reached a point of no return.

Foreign Minister Offers Cooperation on POW's

JN0803122392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has emphasized Iraq's readiness, intention, and determination to cooperate fully and completely with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to implement the agreement recently signed with Iran in Geneva concerning the release of Iraqi POW's in Iran.

The minister told INA: We welcomed the ICRC envoy in Baghdad and discussed with him ways to implement the agreement reached with the Iranian side concerning Iraqi POW's who are being kept in Iran without any reason, justification, or legal basis.

The minister said that Iraq, as always, is fully prepared to cooperate with the ICRC in this regard and that it has carried out its commitments to this effect. He noted that Iraq is also prepared to cooperate with the ICRC in discussing the issue of Kuwaiti claims about detainees in Iraq, an issue about which the Kuwaiti rulers are raising a hue and cry. The minister said: We have explained to them our position in this regard.

The minister stated: Iraq has handed over to the ICRC 6,520 Kuwaitis and others, including a large number of senior Kuwaiti officers and a number of members of the Kuwaiti ruling family. As for the Kuwaiti authorities' list, which includes a number of people, Iraq is prepared to cooperate in order to expose this fabulous lie which is being disseminated by rulers imposed on Kuwait and by their supporters in suspect circles.

Concluding his statement, the minister said: In any case, Iraq has placed this issue before the ICRC. It has expressed readiness to cooperate with it in accordance with the methods of work undertaken by this international humanitarian organization.

Kurdistan Front Condemns al-Sulaymaniyah Car Bomb

JN0703182992 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1738 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah—Our correspondent in the city of al- Sulaymaniyah has stated that on the night of 6-7 March 1992 a booby-trapped Brazilian-made car blew up in front of the headquarters of the Kurdistan Front's committee in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

Our correspondent added that the explosion martyred 12 citizens and wounded 15 others. While we extend our condolences to the families of the martyrs on this painful incident and wish a speedy recovery for the wounded, we strongly denounce this premeditated criminal and cowardly action on the anniversary of the Kurdistan masses' uprising. We emphasize that the perpetrators will receive their fair punishment at the hands of the masses of the city of sacrifice and at the hands of the brave peshmerga of the Kurdistan Front.

We also would like to assert that such criminal actions will never affect the Kurdistan masses' will and their faith in themselves, their gains, and their leadership, as represented by the Iraqi Kurdistan Front. On the contrary, experience has proved that such methods, which are against peace and stability in the region, have failed.

Death Squads Said Formed To Kill Oppositionists

NC0903161492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Saddam, the defeated tyrant, this week formed assassination groups whose task is to pursue the Iraqi opposition leaders and assassinate them.

The newspaper (?AL-WIFAQ) cites people arriving from Baghdad as saying that Saddam has formed a main committee for this purpose. The committee comprises Saddam's two brothers; Interior Minister Wathban Ibrahim, Public Security Director Sab'awi Ibrahim, and a number of others, including Police Brigadier General Tahir Jalil Habbush, who specialize in pursuing the enemies of the regime.

Those arriving said that Saddam has formed other subcommittees that have established their headquarters in the city of al-Rutbah on the Iraqi-Jordanian border. These subcommittees, which are directly attached to the office of the tyrant's interior minister, comprise a number of security men and some retired military and security personnel who are known for their allegiance to the regime and who have been furnished with passports designating them as businessmen and merchants.

These committees also include retired crime combatant Colonel Muhammad 'Awdah Mutlaq, retired Police Commissioner Mizhir al-Suwayyid, and a number of A men who are loyal to the defeated tyrant.

Those arriving revealed that the tyrant's authorities have taken measures to ensure the secrecy of these committees' activities and movements by replacing all the administrative officials in the city of al-Rutbah with security and intelligence personnel. These committees have been furnished with lists containing the names of Iraqi opposition leaders who pose a real threat to the regime.

Meanwhile, dictator Saddam Husayn has authorized two high-ranking officers to supervise the monitoring of the movements of a number of his opponents in Jordan. The two officers—Major Gen. Sabah Karam Sha'ban and Brig. Gen. Muhammad Bilal al-Jiburi—will supervise committees which the defeated regime is trying to infiltrate into the states neighboring Iraq in which there are antiregime activities, to monitor the movements of the opposition.

Alleged Remarks by Bush, Baker Reported

TA0903092092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Mar 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by Shlomo Shamir and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] A prominent Jewish source in New York claimed yesterday that President George Bush verbally abused Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last September in a meeting with his close advisers at the White House. The Jewish source told HA'ARETZ that Bush described Israel's actions concerning the guarantees as a foolish attempt on Shamir's part to curb his authority and subjugate U.S. foreign policy to Jerusalem's needs, and angrily said: "Who does he think he is, that little fucker [last word in English] Shamir?"

Likud leaders were not surprised by Ed Koch's allegations that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had said: "Fuck the Jews" [last three words in English]. A very senior government source said "the problem is not with what Baker says about the Jews, but with his actions against Israel." Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has not publicly commented on the matter, but one of his associates noted that he has no problem with Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav's assertion that he tends to believe Koch. In contrast, Health Minister Ehud Olmert said he accepts Baker's denial. A political source pointed out yesterday that a harsh official reaction against Baker would have totally "burned" Israel's relations with the current U.S. Administration, something that the government does not want to do. [passage omitted]

Ministers React to Koch's Charge

TA0803110592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpt] The cabinet session has just ended. The ministers were briefed on the terrorist attack in Ankara in which Ehud Sadan lost his life and on the latest round of peace talks in Washington. The briefings were delivered by Elyaqim Rubinstein, Yosi Ben-Aharon, and Yosi Hadas, with each of them reporting on the talks with his respective opposite delegation. According to one minister, the briefings were very colorful.

Praising the negotiations teams, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said: We are conducting these negotiations the way I have always dreamed we would. The United States must see that we are conducting the negotiations with a lot of goodwill, and that may have a positive effect on the question of the guarantees, even if both issues are not related.

As the ministers emerged from the weekly cabinet session, we asked them about the remarks former New York Mayor Ed Koch attributes to Secretary of State James Baker with regard to the Jews. Minister Moshe Qatzav believes Koch's version more.

[Begin recording] [Qatzav] In my opinion, we should take a very serious view of this statement. I am sorry to say that I tend to believe that such words were uttered; I tend to believe Ed Koch's version. I definitely think the U.S. secretary of state's conduct was aberrant, and we cannot ignore it.

[Golan] Minister Ehud Olmert, are you also inclined to believe Ed Koch, who claims Baker said: Fuck the Jews [last three words in English]?

[Olmert] I can only judge the issue by the report and its denial. I have no way of knowing whether he said such words or not. I have no doubt that the current administration is not sympathetic to Israel and does not count on Jewish support in the U.S. domestic political arena. There is no way, however, I can ascertain whether Mr. Baker said the words attributed to him. The fact remains that Mr. Koch accuses him, and that Mr. Baker categorically and vehemently rejects the accusation.

[Golan] Whom do you believe more?

[Olmert] It is not a question of believing one or another; I really cannot judge. If Baker says he did not utter such words, I would like to believe that he indeed did not or, at least, he did not say them in the context alleged by Mr. Koch. I can definitely not tell. The fact that Baker denies it should also be considered. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Shamir: No Bowing to U.S. 'Coercion'

TA0603190092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Mar 92

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with political correspondents in Jerusalem on 6 March—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Shamir] We realize that what is happening, what has happened, and what can happen, God forbid, is part of the Islamic fundamentalism which is spreading further and further through the Middle East and has naturally crossed the borders of our country.

[Arabic Television's Shlomo Ganor] Mr. Shamir, in view of the fact that the killers of the soldiers in Ramat Menashe were Islamic Movement members, do the authorities plan to outlaw this movement?

[Shamir] Well, that depends on the recommendations of the security forces; they are monitoring these dangerous elements very carefully. If necessary, we will resort to new measures.

[Ganor] Have you changed your mind with regard to the death penalty for terrorists in the wake of the rise in the incidence of murderous acts of terrorism?

[Shamir] I would not say a noticeable rise in the incidence of murderous acts of terrorism has been recorded in the recent period. To our regret, these acts exist, they have not ceased, although I believe there were times when such murders were committed more often. In any event, I do not think that the measures we employ should always match the volume of these activities. It is necessary to study the issue and to decide to what extent new or different measures will reduce the incidence of these attempts.

[Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew correspondent Arye Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, with regard to relations with the United States: Do you still believe Israel will receive from the Bush administration the loan guarantees for the absorption of immigrants, or are the Americans already waiting for the Israeli elections in the hope that a different government, one that will stop the settlements, will come to power?

[Shamir] This is not a question of believing, this is a question of assessing the options. Even today, I am unprepared to yield our just demand to receive the aid—which will cost the American taxpayer very little—for the great humanitarian task of immigrant absorption. I cannot say right now what Congress and the administration will decide. What I know is that talks are being held and that there are diverse opinions among those conducting the talks. I hope that one way or another, we will receive the aid for this great cause. The main thing is that we need it; we need this aid.

[Ganor] What compromise formula will it take to ensure that the guarantees are given, in view of the Israeli and American entrenchment in their stands?

[Shamir] As for our stand, I do not think we are allowed to alter it. I think almost all, or most of Israel's political elements will not accept a situation in which the U.S. Government would dictate our policies to us, whether on the issue of settlements today, and on other territorial issues tomorrow. I do not think anyone here is ready to surrender to such coercion.

[Ganor] Mr. Shamir, yesterday Foreign Minister Levi voiced questions and apprehensions with regard to the policy of the Likud and of the government, namely, the possibility that the political process and the autonomy plan will be abandoned. Mr. Prime Minister, what is your reply to your foreign minister and to the entire world?

[Shamir] Our path is clear and simple, and we stated as much before we launched the process: We will stand guard over Eretz Yisra'el and act relentlessly for the peace process.

[Ganor] Despite the Palestinian document which was submitted this week, which in fact proposes a Palestinian state?

[Shamir] What else? Naturally, they will submit all kinds of documents, and we will reject them as we have so far. We are aware of the gap between our stands and theirs. We explained it to them again and again, and they knew we would reject their demands. And yet, despite everything, the negotiations are going on, and they will go on. This is what the negotiations are all about.

Warns of 'Precedent' on Guarantees

TA0603193292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1805 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in Jerusalem on 6 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Sukenik] What is the source of your optimism that in the end, we will both receive guarantees for the absorption of immigrants and stick to our current policy in the territories?

[Shamir] I would not call it optimism; perhaps I am adamant because my common sense says that this is a desirable, just, and logical thing.

[Sukenik] Having made your decision, do you not fear that Israel will suffer economic consequences for generations to come?

[Shamir] Absolutely not. I am not ready to have our policy dictated to us, because it will be a most deplorable precedent the consequences of which Israel will suffer for generations to come. Today they will ordain where to settle and not to settle; tomorrow they may dictate our stand on the issue of Jerusalem. The moment you set a precedent, you cut the ground from under your own feet. We must not do it. [passage omitted]

[Sukenik] Sir, how could it happen that the Levi camp's power in the next Knesset will possibly be incomparably smaller than its power in the Likud Central Committee? Could this be the result of plots, of ballots cast in accordance with prearranged lists? Could it be the result of a conspiracy of the senior figures in the upper echelons, including yourself, against Levi?

[Shamir] I am ready to meet with anyone to assure that these allegations are unfounded. There was no discrimination, there was no conspiracy, there were no intrigues. These were simply elections in which ballots were cast, as can be proven by the fact that in some parts of the voting, only a few votes—six in one case, twenty in another—separated the winners from the losers. The proceedings were held in a most democratic fashion. Well, perhaps this system should be somewhat amended; perhaps. This system was very appropriate at the time we introduced it, and perhaps now it should be slightly amended to prevent the possibility of occasional distortions. In any event, I believe all the election proceedings were absolutely okay. They followed the rules and there was not the slightest attempt to cheat anyone, God forbid, or to distort anything.

[Sukenik] The Levi camp, however, speaks of discrimination, of a conspiracy, of the ethnic aspect.

[Shamir] There is no discrimination, there is no bias. The success or lack of success of any one man or group do not justify these irrelevant and remote descriptions.

Envoy to U.S. Views Loan Guarantees, Terms

TA0603172592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Zalman Shoval, our ambassador to Washington, says Israel understands that to resolve the problem of guarantees, it will have to compromise on some of its stands. It first, however, will have to ascertain the nature of the proposed compromises. He added that if Israel learns that the terms of the guarantees will not benefit the absorption of immigrants, the government will have to reassess its request for guarantees.

He noted that the guarantees controversy did not expedite the peace process, because the Arabs—mainly the Palestinians—interpreted it as a blow to the Israeli-U.S. relationship.

Our Washington-based correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Ambassador Shoval made these remarks in a briefing to reporters.

Remarks Provoke Demand for Recall

TA0803183892 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Mar 92 p5

[Report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam]

[Text] Tzomet is demanding that Zalman Shoval, the ambassador to Washington, be summoned home. The call follows Shoval's declaration that in the final analysis Israel will have to compromise on the issue of the loan guarantees. In Tzomet's motion to the agenda, Knesset Member Yo'ash Tzidon claimed that it is not Shoval's job to make up his own policy which contravenes the policy of the elected government.

Reactions to Death of Menahem Begin

Shamir Vows To Pursue Doctrine

TA0903062492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Tzvi Lidar—live]

[Excerpt] [Lidar] Good morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Lidar] Menahem Begin has passed away. We, of course, would like to hear your reaction to this.

[Shamir] Well, I think that today the Israeli people, both here and in the diaspora, will mournfully bid farewell with deep agony to their finest son, the sixth prime minister, who was so loved by the nation, Menahem Begin. He was Ze'ev Jabotinsky's best pupil, the commander of the Irgun, the founder of the Herut movement and of the Likud, a Knesset member and minister in various Israeli governments. He was a man who fought his entire life for Eretz Yisra'el and for the Israeli people.

Menahem Begin's name will be etched in the history of the nation alongside those of the nation's greatest figures. It was under his command that Eretz Yisra'el freed itself from foreign rule and the establishment of the State of Israel was made possible. The unity of the Israeli people was maintained under his leadership and a bitter internecine battle was averted. The Israeli people under his leadership attained a peace treaty with the largest Arab country, Egypt, and he served as an inspiration for parliamentary life and democracy in Israel.

Begin was the leader who removed the barriers that divided our people and enabled all its sectors to get ahead. He cared about the welfare of the development towns and the underprivileged neighborhoods. He was a man who showed everybody what real Jewish leadership is. We, his pupils and those who follow in his path, his comrades in arms, have lost the man who was the founder and the leader of our movement for 35 years. We, who so loved and admired him, will miss him tenfold. We salute our now departed commander, leader, teacher, and prime minister on this bitter day. Today, we mourn this great man who is no longer with us.

The memory and inspiration of Menahem Begin will be inscribed on the heart of the entire nation for eternity. We shall pursue his doctrine and path and continue the struggle to strengthen the Jewish people in its country, in order to guarantee the security and well-being of all Israeli citizens and in order to glorify our right to our entire homeland from the sea to the river so that we may widen the circle of peace in the Middle East and augment social justice and human liberty throughout Eretz Yisra'el.

Today, our heads are bowed in mourning to the memory of this dear, admired, and beloved man, Menahem Begin. We have all been orphaned and cannot be consoled. [passage omitted]

Labor Party Statement

TA0903053592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin has announced that he and his party share in the sorrow of the family, the Likud party, and all of Israel at the death of Menahem Begin, whom Rabin called one of the dreamers and fighters for the State of Israel. In an announcement, the Labor Party said it would remember Mr. Begin as a man who greatly contributed to Israeli democracy; as an outstanding parliamentarian and a formidable political rival; a man, said the announcement, with whom Labor had bitter differences, but a great statesman and prime minister who knew how to

extend the hand of peace to an enemy, and who opened a window of opportunity for peace in the Middle East.

Egyptian Ambassador Speaks

TA0903083492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] The CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] has announced that it shares the sorrow of Begin's family, his party, and the entire Israeli people at his passing.

Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni expressed his condolences to the Begin family and said that Begin will forever be remembered in history for his great contribution to peace in the Middle East.

BBC Report 'Hostile, Negative'

TA0903073192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] BBC Television today broadcast a hostile, negative, and distorted review of Menahem Begin at the beginning of its news program, which is beamed internationally via satellite.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the program stated that the late prime minister was responsible for the torture and death of British soldiers. Among other things, the BBC noted Menahem Begin's responsibility for the bombing of the King David Hotel, without pointing out that the British command had received prior warning. The report also claimed that Begin was responsible for the murder of 250 Arabs in Dayr Yasin and for the bloody war in Lebanon. The report added that Begin was a wanted terrorist during the British Mandate. The only Begin accomplishment that was noted in the review was the peace treaty with Egypt.

Minister Urges U.S. To Interdict DPRK Scuds

TA0803113892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Health Minister Ehud Olmert has said the United States is capable of stopping the ship carrying Scud missiles from North Korea to Syria or Iran, and ought to do so. Interviewed by reporters after this morning's cabinet meeting, Olmert said Syria cannot claim to be negotiating peace with Israel while continuing with its intensive arms buildup. Back to Jack Katzenell:

[Katzenell] Health Minister Olmert asks how Israel can take Syria's participation in the peace negotiations seriously when the Damascus regime is buying weapons of mass destruction wherever it can get them. In his view, the United States ought to stop the ship carrying North Korean missiles to Syria, if only because the peace negotiations are under U.S. auspices.

[Begin Olmert recording] There is a question here on how far can we go in tolerating the increased armament of the Arab countries at a time when they are negotiating peace with us. And what's the meaning of these peace negotiations at a time when they are buying more and more Scud missiles aimed at the State of Israel? So, either this is not serious, or this is just a facade for something else. I think that America, being the moving force in the peace negotiations, has to take an initiative. I don't know if they have to sink the ships, but they have other means by which they can practically stop this increased armament by the Arab countries. [end recording]

[Katzenell] Olmert says there is no doubt at all that the Americans are capable of stopping these arms deliveries. Asked if the United States is in touch with Israel on this issue, Olmert replied: We are in contact with Washington on a daily basis. And if the United States does nothing, would Israel take action against the cargo ship? If we were planning such action, Olmert said, do you think I would tell you?

Air Force Commander Comments

TA0803125492 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Mar 92 p 13

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] "The moment Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad thinks he has a chance of gaining something from war, he might certainly start one, even if there is no large power like the USSR to support him. Anyway, if a war breaks out, we will definitely win an overwhelming victory."

Those remarks were made by Major General Herzl Bodinger, the Air Force commander, in his first interview since taking over his post. The interview was published by BIT'ON HEYL HA'AVIR over the weekend.

Gen. Bodinger believes that if the Syrians start a war against Israel they will not direct their surface-to-surface missiles at civilian centers, but at military targets.

Bodinger added: "The firing at civilian centers during the Gulf war was not due to any ideology. Rather, it was all Saddam Husayn was capable of doing against Israel. Since the al-Husayn missiles were the only weapons he could use against Israel and since they are relatively inaccurate, he preferred directing them at populated urban areas so that each missile would hit a target.

"The Syrians, on the other hand, have more accurate missiles. It seems reasonable to me that they would aim them at military targets and not civilian ones. Syria is procuring massive quantities of surface-to-surface missiles because it knows it will be very hard for it to attack behind Israeli lines with aircraft.

"In the past, Syria purchased enormous quantities of surface-to-air missiles to protect itself against attacks by Israeli aircraft. The Syrian surface-to-air missile network proved to be successful in the Yom Kippur War, but disintegrated during the Lebanon war. Just as the Israeli Air Force found an answer to the Syrian surface-to-air

missile system, it will also find a solution to the surface-to-surface missile network."

The Air Force commander does not rule out the possibility that chemical weapons might be introduced in the next war, but he believes that they would be used, if at all, only in a drastic situation. "We now know that Iraq had surface-to-surface missiles with chemical warheads, but they nevertheless refrained from using them. In my view, the only reason was that they were afraid of the power of the response."

'Deep Shock' at Killing of Israeli in Ankara

TA0703164292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] An Israeli was killed when a bomb went off in his car in Ankara this afternoon. Two Turkish passersby, a nine-year-old boy and a 20-year-old man, were seriously hurt in the explosion, which occurred in the Cankaya neighborhood. Six vehicles were damaged and windows in buildings within a 50-meter radius were smashed. In an announcement to the local media, two organizations took responsibility for the action: the Islamic Jihad and a group calling itself the Islamic Revenge Organization.

Barukh Bina, the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem, told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Israel expressed deep shock at the attack in Ankara, which followed so soon the terrorist attack on Istanbul's Neve Shalom synagogue.

Turkish Leaders React

TA0703182692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The Israeli killed in the explosion in Ankara is Ehud Sadan, 37, an attache at the Israeli Embassy in Turkey. His family has been informed. A bomb exploded this afternoon in his car parked in downtown Ankara. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem expressed deep shock at the attack in Ankara. Prior to his post in the Ankara embassy, Ehud Sadan was a police officer and one of those who set up the Israeli Police sappers unit. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Ehud Sadan joined the police in the early 1970's and was later posted to the national police headquarters to set up the sappers unit. The theories he developed still guide police units around the country. He was a Jerusalem resident and left behind a wife and three daughters.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel sent his condolences and deep sorrow at Ehud Sadan's murder to Foreign Minister David Levi. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the message was transmitted by Uri Gordon, Israel's ambassador to Ankara. The Turkish foreign minister also expressed condolences. He told the ambassador that he would follow the investigation personally.

The Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv received a message an hour ago that a bomb had been planted. Police and the bomb squad rushed to the site and are now searching the building. Embassy employees have been evacuated.

False Alarm at Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv

TA0703201692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Police sappers did not find anything suspicious at the Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv tonight. They rushed there following an announcement that a bomb had been planted in the building, but it was found to be a false alarm.

Levi Shuns Shamir; Camp Weighs Next Moves

TA0903112492 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Amir Neumann]

[Excerpt] There is a stalemate in the Likud following Foreign Minister David Levi's refusal to hold his weekly meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Levi has so far rejected all reconciliation attempts and requests for meetings from various leading Likud members and has instructed his aides not to return the calls of Likud ministers to his office.

His associates said yesterday that Levi could not possibly attend the meeting after Shamir's aides played it up in the media. Shamir has so far disregarded pressure to name the Likud's election campaign staff because of the high tension.

Maxim Levi, mayor of Lod and David's brother, stated yesterday that he sees no democratic means by which the prime minister can now reward the foreign minister. "They have nothing to offer," he said, "and this increases the confusion and the hard feelings in our camp. What can he offer us? The chairmanship of the election campaign staff? The annulment of the results of the vote on the septets?"

Minister David Levi kept mum about his intentions at yesterday's meeting in his office with Knesset members [MK], mayors, and prominent members of his camp. He did not elaborate on his political plans for the future and merely listened and exchanged views with his followers.

Maxim Levi claims his brother will make up his mind within the next one or two days, prior to a rally of his followers which will apparently be held on Thursday and in which the final decisions will be made.

He added that Minister Levi feels bad, particularly because of the affront to his men, most of whom were ranked at the bottom of the Likud's list. Maxim noted that his brother is aware of the fact that his men's chances were hurt by their affiliation with him.

Two groups have emerged in the Levi camp in the last few days: The first, made up of mayors and activists led by Maxim Levi and Qiryat Shemona Mayor Prosper Azran and supported by MK Aharon Abu-Hatzera, favors quitting the Likud and setting up a party that will carry the banner against social discrimination.

This group "guarantees" Levi that such a party would win about 10 Knesset seats, making it the third largest in the Knesset. They argue that such a situation would make Levi the "kingmaker" and would enable him to appoint the prime minister and to be appointed foreign minister or to any other post he would like.

The second group, led by MK's Re'uven Rivlin, Mikha'el Kleiner, and Yehoshu'a Sagi, is trying to sabotage such a move because they object to the establishment of a party that would be perceived as being sectarian in nature. They caution against secession, arguing that they must first exhaust all efforts within the Likud. [passage omitted]

Likud's Growing Alienation From Public Analyzed

TA0603144192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Mar 92 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Suddenly, Signs of a New Upheaval]

[Text] A strange thing, politics. After all, developments in that field take form as part of a lengthy process, and only after slow-moving trends have run their course. And then, suddenly, with one resounding thunderclap, the tables are turned. A famous example: the Alignment's victory in the elections immediately following the Yom Kippur War. Almost four years passed after 1973 before the military fiasco was translated into a political upheaval. Now, despite all the differences, something very similar is happening, something very important. It was only this week that the ruling party's power base appeared to be rotting from the inside.

Is a political upheaval imminent? Politics is a strange business and it would be best not to get carried away. It is already quite clear, however, that we are beginning to see new, yet familiar pictures in this election campaign. Much like looking through a reverse mirror, the processes taking place in the Likud resemble the Alignment during its downfall. Sephardic Likud constituents, the dyed-in-the-wool supporters who brought the party to power, once more shouted: "Ashkenazim [Jews of European extraction, traditionally identified with the Labor establishment] bastards!" This week, however, the people at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds were venting their anger at Moshe Arens, Ari'el Sharon, Yitzhaq Shamir, and about the betrayal of David Levi, the symbol of the political equality they had worked so hard to get.

It was as though a seemingly impenetrable mental block had suddenly burst: People who had always considered Shim'on Peres and the Labor party an abomination threatened to vote for Yitzhaq Rabin. This was a seemingly spontaneous outburst coming right from the heart, and this is why it is so edifying. It is the kind of outburst that generates upheavals, because at its essence—just like in the days before the Likud's ascension to power—lies a sense of betrayal and discrimination. The Likud's malcontents did not ask what their leadership did for the country; they asked what an Askhenazi hierarchy, which pushed Levi and his associates to the bottom of the list, did for them.

The Likud put hundreds of people on the boards of companies and distributed cushy jobs. In those far-off days it promoted an election economy to keep people happy. But today, after it has grown fat, the Likud has started to kick the same people in the face. Out of 10 new names in the party's Knesset list, only three are Sephardim, and they are all ranked below the 25th position. Just like in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, the old-time leadership showed them that some are more equal than others.

Bitter and disappointed, they gave expression to their feeling that there is no longer anyone up there able to at least give them the illusions Menahem Begin could. He, perhaps better than anyone else, can grasp the significance of what happened a short distance from his Tel Aviv apartment: Sharon's high-handed running of the Central Committee and the angry shouts of "Rabin, Rabin" are sufficient cause for a heart attack.

It would be a grave mistake to believe that these devoted Likud supporters are primarily interested in their movement's ideology. What do they care about Judaea and Samaria or their forefathers' heritage? They were force-fed this madness by an old-time Ashkenazi leadership guided by a Revisionist tradition they have nothing in common with. As long as the territories came part and parcel together with respect for their growing influence in the party, one could expect their support even for the delirious visions of an Israel stretching from "horizon to horizon." The majority of members of any democratic party, however, are pragmatists guided by egoistic expectations. The territories that really interest them are those of honor, respect, and a sense that they belong in their own party, not in the land of the intifadah.

The truth is that this inevitably happens to any party that remains in power too long, and 15 years is an eternity up there. The Likud's problem is common to any party that has enjoyed the privileges of power too long: It has cut itself off, begun to guard the interests of its leadership, and distanced itself from the rank and file. Its ideals were thrown by the wayside.

The party moved away at the same time both from the sensitivities of its supporters, mainly the Sephardic ones, regarding the degree of their inclusion in the party's life, as well as from their increasing trend toward political moderation. During the recent Likud conventions it became apparent that those sitting in the hall were quieter and less dogmatic, both in style and rhetoric,

than their leaders; the violent Likud activists who used to overturn tables have become well-behaved gentlemen. This widening gap indeed recalls the Alignment at the beginning of its decline.

There is something contaminating and atrophying about being in power, even if it does not actually corrupt. Margaret Thatcher, the champion of popularity polls and the Iron Lady for a decade, disintegrated when her allotted time in power was over. George Bush is now struggling for his political survival. The Likud may very well be at the threshold of such a struggle.

The Likud's Central Committee is a pretty accurate reflection of the Israeli public. The party's years in power have made its supporters even more characteristic of your typical Israeli Joe. But it is this that has now become a serious problem: The more alienated the top leadership becomes from the rank and file, the more it exhibits a dangerous lack of regard for the opinions of the man in the street who brought it to power.

If the Likud's constituency is really made up of the run-of-the-mill Israeli, it is important and fascinating to understand what happened this week, seemingly all at once, at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. There, much more so than at the Labor Party convention, we were offered a glimpse of what is happening in the minds and hearts of the people in any ordinary Israeli neighborhood in 1992. One can also see the initial signs that the Likud is heading toward a dead end.

Possible Changes in Likud, Government Reported

TA0803112492 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Mar 92 p 4

[Report by political correspondent Hana Qim]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not intend to fire Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i today, despite the fact that Minister Ari'el Sharon is demanding the finance portfolio. According to Sharon's associates, in the few months left before the elections, Likud has to address the issue of unemployment and raise child allocations. They claim Sharon intends to put the Finance Ministry "in order" so that it is better prepared for the elections.

Unlike his men, Sharon has said that the agreement with Moda'i [allocating him and his faction slots on the Likud Knesset list] must be honored: "If you have no intention of keeping agreements, you should consider that fact during the coalition negotiations on the formation of a government. The agreement with Moda'i prevented the establishment of a dangerous Labor government. That is why I believe the agreements must be honored."

Minister Moshe Arens and other Shamir associates believe that if Moda'i is fired, the finance portfolio should be handed over to Dan Meridor, despite his defeat in the Likud elections. Another person mentioned for the post is Minister Moshe Nisim, despite his deal with David Levi in the Likud elections. Senior members of the Shamir-Arens camp said yesterday that the prime minister will first calm down the Likud—and mainly the Levi camp—"and will later deal with further preparations for the elections."

Speaking to his followers in Tel Aviv two days ago, Moda'i was very careful not to declare that he is forming a new party, but said that "we have excellent polls indicating that there is room for a center party." Moda'i's followers called on him to set up a new party, and no one urged him to return to the Likud. When asked whether he expects Shamir to retaliate if he sets up a new party, Moda'i said: "Even if I knew that for a fact, it would not change my mind. The decision about (setting up a new party) goes beyond the question of who will be the next finance minister." [passage omitted]

Over the past few days, Moda'i has been courting bitter Likud members, including persons associated with David Levi. Some of them said yesterday: "If by next weekend Levi does not decide to establish a new party, there will be people who will quit."

Moda'i conferred with Maxim Levi, David Levi's brother, on the issue and will hold additional meetings with Levi's men during the coming week. [passage omitted]

The Shamir-Arens camp is following the events with concern. Sources associated with Arens said yesterday that the alliance with Sharon was ad hoc. According to them, "SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] may wrest two Knesset seats from the Likud as a result of the genie of Sephardic-Ashkenazi rivalry, which broke out of the bottle in the voting on the septets." Senior Levi camp members said yesterday that Minister Arye Der'i told them: "The Likud gave us a gift of several seats." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 8 March carries a report by Hemi Shalev on page one adding: "Persistent rumors spread in the Likud last night that Foreign Minister David Levi intends to resign from his post and the cabinet this week. Levi's associates refused to confirm or deny the report." Adding that Levi is under heavy pressure by his followers to set up an independent party, Shalev notes that "in any event, Levi will quit the government if he decides to run for the Knesset on his own." The report adds that "Likud sources last night expressed grave concern about the negative effect the Central Committee vote might have on the Likud showing in the Knesset elections" and said that "'drastic steps' will be needed to avoid losing to Labor."]

French Group on Jewish Emigration From Yemen

TA0603125992 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Mar 92 p 1

[Report from Paris by Gid'on Kouts]

[Text] Upon their return from Yemen yesterday, a delegation of French Jewish leaders said they had been told by Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani that Yemen would be willing to allow Jews to leave the country "to reunite with their families" on condition that they do not immigrate to Israel. Most Jews of Yemeni origin outside Israel live in the United States or South America.

The delegation was headed by Roger Panto, deputy president of the council of Jewish organizations in France and chairman of the committee for Jewish communities in distress. He recounted that during a cordial and friendly meeting in Sanaa, the Yemeni foreign minister said that his country wants its Jews, "who are part of a 3,000-year-old history," to remain in Yemen. When the delegates raised the right of Yemenis to reunite with their families abroad, as stated in Yemen's new constitution, the minister said he agrees to that "on condition that the Jews do not immigrate to Israel, in view of the state of war between Israel and the Arab countries."

Panto said the delegation felt encouraged after the visit and noted that contacts will continue.

The delegation of French Jewish leaders arrived in Yemen as official guests. The visit was organized by the Yemeni Embassy in Paris, with the help of the French Ministry of External Affairs. Reports about an impending "airlift" of Yemeni Jews to Israel quoted in Yemen's newspapers triggered an onslaught on the Yemeni Government and almost led to the cancellation of the visit.

Panto, who met with Jews in Sanaa and al-Raydah, got the impression that they have freedom today but are in dire economic straits, like most Yemenis. In his opinion, most of them would like to emigrate.

Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz Arrives En Route to New York

JN0703133492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Amman, 7 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his delegation arrived here today en route to New York to attend a special session the UN Security Council plans to convene on Wednesday.

Tariq 'Aziz will address the session on Iraq's position with regard to resolutions issued by the Council.

The delegation includes Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of other officials and experts.

Confers With King Husayn

JN0703152192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] At the Royal Court at noon today, His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister, who stopped off in Amman on his way to New York. 'Aziz extended to his majesty his warmest congratulations on the occasion of the advent of the blessed month of Ramadan. The meeting was attended by his excellency the prime minister; Muhammad al-Sahhaf, Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Iraqi abmassador to Amman.

Briefs Prince Hasan

JN0803151992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] At his office in the Royal Hashemite Court this morning, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who arrived in Amman yesterday en route to New York to attend a meeting for the Security Council this week.

During the meeting, current developments in the region were reviewed. The guest also presented his country's position toward UN resolutions.

The meeting was attended by the adviser of his majesty the king, the Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Iraqi ambassador to Amman.

Leaves for New York

JN0903135392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Amman, 9 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, heading a delegation, left Amman for New York today to attend the special UN Security Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday [11 March].

Mr. 'Aziz will explain Iraq's position on the Council's resolutions.

The delegation comprises Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of officials and experts.

During his two-day visit to Amman, Mr. 'Aziz held talks with King Husayn of Jordan and Crown Prince Hasan on Iraq's position toward the UN resolutions, developments in the region, and bilateral ties.

King Husayn Departs on Visit to Europe, U.S.

JN0803111492 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman before noon today at the start of a tour which includes Iceland, Canada, the United States, France, and Germany. His majesty will meet with the leaders of these countries and high-ranking officials there to exchange views on the latest regional and international issues, as well as bilateral relations.

Reports on Visit by Armenian Foreign Minister

Meets King Husayn

JN0703154692 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] At the Royal Court at noon today, His Majesty King Husayn received Armenia's Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisian, who is on a regional tour. Mr. Ovannisian commended Jordan and its wise leadership, noting the high regard and appreciation in which his majesty is held by the Armenian people. The two exchanged views about regional and international issues and stressed the need to forge bilateral ties in various spheres. Mr. Ovannisian extended to his majesty an invitation to visit the Armenian Repbulic. His majesty accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit at the earliest convenient date. Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir and the Armenian delegation attended the audience.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN0703134192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] This morning, His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister, received in his office at the Prime Ministry Mr. Raffi Ovannisian, foreign minister of the Republic of Armenia, who is currently visiting Jordan in the course of a Middle East tour. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir.

Discussion at the meeting focused on ways to develop bilateral relations following the independence of Armenia within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir today conferred with the Armenian foreign minister and his delegation.

They talked about bilateral cooperation and ways to bolster it in all fields, as well as discussing the current international situation.

The meeting was attended by the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry and a number of other ministry officials.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN0803142492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisian left Amman this morning after a three-day visit to the kingdom. He had met with His Majesty King Husayn, his excellency the prime minister, and the foreign minister and other senior officials.

In a predeparture statement, Mr. Ovannisian said his talks with the prime minister addressed issues of mutual interest, especially regional issues and bilteral ties. The two sides, he added, expressed a willingness to strengthen these relations. The Jordanian and Armenian sides reached agreement to establish diplomatic relations, Ovannisian said.

King Congratulates al-Asad on Syrian National Day

JN0703192792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has cabled congratulations to his brother, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, on the occasion of Syria's national day, which falls tomorrow, Sunday. In his name and on behalf of the people and Government of Jordan, his majesty's cable expressed the warmest congratulations and prayed to God that come the next anniversary His Excellency President al-Asad will be in the best of health, and the brotherly Syrian people will have attained progress and prosperity.

Foreign Minister on Latest Round of Peace Talks

JN0703095492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 92 pp 1, 5

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, putting a positive face on Arab-Israeli peace talks which ended their latest session this week with no apparent progress, said Friday the process was on track.

"Considering that this is a long, drawn-out struggle, one can say things are exactly where they are supposed to be," Dr. Abu-Jabir was quoted as saying by Reuters.

"We would have hoped they would have advanced a little more but considering the complicated nature of the conflict...it is not surprising," he said, adding he hoped that in the next round Israel would come to terms with the need to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said he expected the next session to be held in Washington, despite Israel's insistence on moving the talks closer to the Middle East.

"We said if there is progress made in the talks we will consider moving them."

Dr. Abu-Jabir leaves with His Majesty King Husayn on Sunday on the Monarch's first visit to Washington since the Gulf crisis—a sign of improving relations with traditional allies estranged by Jordan's sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf war.

The tour, which also includes Iceland, Canada, Germany and France, will focus on the peace process, bilateral relations and economic aid to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Iran Envoy Visits, Negotiates on German Hostages

NC0803110092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The newspaper AL-HAYAH has cited knowledgeable sources as saying that an Iranian envoy visited Beirut over the past few days and met with people who have contacts with the kidnappers of the two German hostages. The Iranian envoy's visit was part of the Iranian moves to end this issue.

The sources added that the Iranian envoy has been told that the kidnappers are ready to respond to the Iranian and other mediation efforts. The sources pointed out that the kidnappers also are ready to cooperate with the committee recently formed by the Lebanese Cabinet to pursue this issue.

The kidnappers, according to AL-HAYAH, expressed their readiness to accept a pledge from high authorities in Iran or Syria, even if it is not public, to follow up the issue of the Hammadi brothers after the release of the two Germans.

Buwayz—Washington Should Be Future Talks Venue

NC0603182792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that Lebanon has not been officially notified yet about the next round of peace negotiations. He added that the talks will be unjustified if they are held before the Israeli elections and before a certain amount of progress has been achieved.

Following a meeting with Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev, Buwayz said the current Israeli Government is a caretaker one and it has absolutely nothing concrete to offer.

We took part in the peace conference after having received certain assurances from a number of powers in connection with UN Security Council Resolution 425, he said, adding: There is no way we can discuss any security aspect or treaty at this time. He emphasized that Israel has to accept the principle of a full withdrawal, in accordance with UN Resolution 425. Only then can we address the other issues, he added.

We have notified the Russian ambassador that we see no reason to move the talks from Washington, he noted, adding: We insist that the American capital be the venue for any future round of talks.

Karami—Israel Responsible for Economic Crisis

NC0803075792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has once again held Israel responsible for the problems Lebanon is suffering. He believes that Israel, who was unable to break Lebanon's will through security and political means, is planning to do so through striking the economy and starving the people. He said: Israel wants us to surrender and wants an agreement similar to the one of 17 May. He pointed out that the economic war was due to Lebanon's stand at the multilateral talks.

Prime Minister Karami believes that wage increases contributed toward the current financial crisis. He wondered about the usefulness of strikes and demonstrations. He said: If some people have any practical and scientific solutions, we are ready to adopt them; but if the issue is to accuse the government, then I say that if this government leaves, 90 percent of its ministers will take part in the next government. He pointed out that there will be no subsidy of any goods because this subsidy is used where it should not be.

The prime minister announced that he will agree with the Chamber of Deputies speaker tomorrow on the date for the general parliamentary session to discuss government performance. He expressed surprise over reports of disagreements between him and the Chamber speaker. He said: This disagreement is nonexistent.

Amal Reports Ambush of Israeli-SLA Patrol

NC0803184792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The Amal Movement has issued the following statement: An Amal resistance group laid an ambush for the Zionist enemy and Agent Lahd troops in the Abu-Zurayq area, situated between Zibqin and (Shibhin). At 2130 yesterday, while a patrol of occupation troops was passing, the movement's strugglers hurled hand grenades and opened fire—using light- and medium-caliber weapons—on the patrol. The ensuing clash lasted more than 15 minutes during which the occupation troops sought the help of helicopters, which illuminated the area with flares. The helicopters strafed the adjacent ridges with heavy-caliber machine-gun fire. One helicopter landed at the scene of the battle and took away the enemy's dead and wounded. The enemy later bombarded the outskirts of Zibqin and (Shibhin) with mortars until midnight. The movement's mujahidin returned safely to base.

Israelis Shell Wadi al-Saluqi Area in South

NC0903095092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces last night fired a number of 130-mm mortar shells at the Wadi al-Saluqi area. They also fired flares over Shaqra and raked the area with various types of weapons, causing heavy material damage.

Hizballah To Aid Iran in Forming Ties With South

NC0703190592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has said that following his talks in Tehran, it was decided that Hizballah would make special efforts to assist Iran in forging closer ties with villagers of southern Lebanon.

He added that $1 million has been allocated to rebuild homes destroyed in the recent Israeli incursion into southern Lebanon.

Nasrallah noted that Shiite support for Hizballah has increased markedly since the killing of former Hizballah leader 'Abbas al-Musawi.

Israel Said Preparing 'Sudden Strikes'

JN0903144592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus, 9 Mar (SANA)—Under the headline "The Priorities of the Next Stage," today's TISHRIN editorial praises the great accomplishments and memorable victories scored by the March revolution for Syria and the Arabs. The paper says: The present and future stages require more vigilance, courage, creativity, and productive construction.

TISHRIN adds that the entire world views leader al-Asad with appreciation, reverence, and respect, considering him the Arab leader with whom dialogue should be conducted. There can be no peace in the Middle East without Syria which, since the Corrective Movement, became a basic country in the region that enjoys great political and military weight.

The paper says: The coming months are fraught with dangers. The Israeli enemy is persistently rejecting just peace in the Middle East and is clinging to its occupation of the Arab territories and its denial of the Palestinian rights. Through leader al-Asad's prudence and firm strategic outlook, Syria managed to corner Israel and expose its positions against peace and international legitimacy. It also managed to win world public opinion. However, no one is unaware of the Zionist enemy's deceit and preparations for sudden strikes aimed at diverting the international community's attention from the peace process and from its repressive settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories.

Hence, vigilance is required and national unity should be continuously reinforced by clearing the internal situation from the negative aspects and impurities. There is no alternative to continuing construction and consolidating Syria's solid economic and military basis.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that promoting the accomplishments of the March revolution and the popular rallying around its pan-Arab goals as well as sticking to rights and territories, confronting the enemy plans, and seeking an effective Arab solidarity should be given absolute priority. Leader al-Asad has called on us on every occasion to spare no effort to uphold our pan-Arab causes and no Arab country will be secure under the continuation of occupation. There is no doubt that these urgent, pioneering slogans will be the banner headline for the new constitutional term of the leader of the nation and people.

Al-'Allaf Says Israel 'Exploiting' Peace Talks

JN0703191992 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 1830 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The Syrian delegation to the peace talks in Washington, headed by Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, returned to Damascus this evening after participating in the fourth round of these talks.

Al-'Allaf made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he condemned the Israeli position which has obstructed the peace process during the four rounds of talks; namely, its insistence on continuing its settlement policy and its rejection of the principles on which the peace process are based, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace which is derived from them.

He added that the Israeli prime minister seems to be exploiting the peace process without allowing it to make any progress in order to deceive world public opinion into believing that Israel is working for peace at a time when it is using this process to cover its aggressive policy in the occupied Arab territories.

The Syrian delegation head pointed out that this position is now known by the international community, world public opinion, and the cosponsors of the conference. The Syrian delegation believes that U.S. public opinion, in particular, has started to understand much better the justice of the Arab right, reflected by the comments and editorials of most of the U.S. media during the last round. This also was reflected in the U.S. insistence on freezing settlement construction in the occupied Arab territories.

'Astonishment' at Turkish Charge of KWP Support

PM0903104692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 5 Mar 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Damascus Astonished by Ankara's Accusations"]

[Excerpt] Damascus, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Authoritative Syrian sources have expressed their astonishment at the accusations by Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel that Syria was responsible for the presence of armed oppositionists of the Kurdish Workers' Party training in the Lebanese al-Biqa' valley.

The sources said that, as far as it is able, Syria cannot allow any activity harmful to relations with Turkey. They added that al-Biqa' is not under its forces' control and that Syria has always sought to clarify this question. They emphasized Syria's concern to safeguard its relations with Turkey. [passage omitted]

Armenian Foreign Minister, Delegation Visit

Al-Asad Receives Ovannisian

JN0603151092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisian and his delegation. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended.

Mr. Ovannisian conveyed to the president a message from Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. The president asked the Armenian foreign minister to convey greetings to the Armenian president and people.

Discussions during the meeting revolved around the situation in Armenia and the Middle East. Bilateral ties and means to improve them were also discussed.

Diplomatic Ties Established

JN0603161192 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1525 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Damascus, 6 Mar (SANA)—At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisian and his delegation. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended. [passage omitted]

The two sides signed an agreement at the Foreign Ministry building today establishing diplomatic relations between Syria and Armenia.

The agreement was signed for the Syrian side by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and for the Armenian side by Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisian. The members of both delegations attended the ceremony.

Minister Departs After 'Historic' Trip

JN0603171892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisian and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon after a brief visit to Syria. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Ovannisian said: I and my delegation were very pleased by our meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. We had a historic and very happy opportunity to bring relations between Syria and Armenia to the level of our two countries' presidents. He added that during his brief visit, he held talks on working out a basis for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries. An agreement to this effect, he said, was signed as a first step toward promoting bilateral relations in the interest of both countries and peoples.

Concluding, Ovannisian expressed thanks on behalf of himself and his delegation for the warm reception they were accorded during their visit.

Iran

U.S. Intent To Seize North Korean Ship Assailed

LD0903123692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1059 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Reports concerning the North Korean ship—which the CIA claims is carrying advanced Scud missiles bound for the Middle East—and reactions to those reports have become the most sensationalized story of Western news agencies and political circles.

U.S. President George Bush announced yesterday that all options for the inspection or seizure of that ship are being assessed. In some of their reports, Western news agencies have spoken of Iran as the ship's destination; others speak of Syria.

The first question that comes to mind is this: Can America legally inspect or seize the North Korean military vessel in international waters? All legal international agreements clearly state that the sovereignty of flag-bearing nations extends to their military vessels. The seizure or inspection of those vessels is considered an open infringement on their sovereignty. Despite this legal block, America's efforts to inspect this ship has attracted everyone's attention. An assessment of the aims of this act is of special importance to political circles.

Some political observers believe that Washington's aim can be assessed on two levels. First, that America is following particular motives along with international arms dealers. As a result of this sort of disruption it seeks to monopolize the arms trade on the world scale for the West and its partners. An assessment of the sensational propaganda launched by Western circles concerning the arms-bearing North Korean vessel is possible within this framework.

Legally speaking, the sale of arms from one country to another based on recognized international agreements for defense purposes is one of the known international rights of nations. This has no similarity whatsoever to the situation of Iraq, where the United Nations has imposed a blockade.

The second assessment that can clarify America's objective concerns the purchasers of arms on the international scale. American officials have said that Washington cannot be an observer to the sale of advanced Scud missiles to Syria which is in a state of hostility with Israel. This has led some political observers to believe that, in its new world order, the White House is bent on controlling the sale of arms on the world scale to those countries that are not in America's camp.

The justification of these policies has been underlined under the guise of maintaining world peace by White House officials during the past few days. This is incompatible with all logical assessments. Washington's sensitivity to the purchase of 20 long-range missiles by Syria, turning a blind eye to Israeli arms purchase, the 20-billion dollars per annum of military aid to Israel, and the production of various nuclear, biological and chemical weapons—including the various missiles by that aggressive regime—show that America seeks to provide security for Israel. Guarding world peace is nothing but a show. Washington seeks to achieve its objectives under its shadow.

On the whole, one can say that this American policy clarifies the nature of that regime for the Muslim people of the region more than ever before. It demonstrates this glaring fact: The world of blasphemy acts in a singly hostile manner toward the world of Islam. Muslims have no option other than unity in order to safeguard their existence.

U.S. Planning 'Act of Maritime Piracy'

NC0903112392 Paris AFP in English 1052 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Tehran, March 9 (AFP)—Iranian newspapers on Monday stepped up their criticism of U.S. threats to board North Korean freighters that may be carrying advanced Scud missiles to Iran or Syria.

"Such an undertaking on the part of the United States would be a clear breach of international maritime regulations," warned the English-language TEHRAN TIMES, which usually reflects government thinking.

"If the two freighters were carrying Scud missiles for Iran and Syria, they would not in any way be breaking any international rules and regulations," it said.

"Iran has every right to be armed and prepared for the defense of its territorial integrity in a region which was armed by the United States with the most advanced and destructive arms." [passage omitted]

For the Iranian paper ABRAR, close to Islamic militants here, "the whole affair is part of a campaign to control the North Korean arms program and to accuse Iran of trying to acquire nuclear weapons. It is also to pressure Syria in peace negotiations."

"If this affair mushrooms, the first victims will the Arab states that threw themselves into the arms of the United States without thinking."

Another militant journal, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, charged that the United States was preparing "an act of maritime piracy."

"It is inadmissible and could have regrettable consequences if the international community does not stand up against this heavy handed measure by Washington."

Dailies Lambaste U.S. 'Pressure'

LD0903102692 Tehran IRNA in English 0927 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—Three major morning dailies in their editorials Monday criticized the U.S. plan to intercept a Middle East-bound North Korean ship describing it "an outright act of international piracy." The dailies were referring to Washington's intention to intercept the North Korean freighter now heading for the Middle East.

The Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" lashed out at the U.S. Administration's mentality that it can poke its nose in affairs of others. It appealed to international community to adopt a clear stand towards Washington's "impudence". Failure of the world community to withstand Washington's bullying, will surely embolden the White House to go on with its impudent measures.

The American move is detrimental to international peace and security and will ensue crisis and chaos in international relations. The world today is in need of order and law ... Respect for the rights of nations and governments and equal rights for governments must be considered indispensable principles of the new world order, concluded JOMHURI.

The other Persian daily "ABRAR" wrote that Washington by staging the ballyhoo is pursuing two objectives, one at international level and the other at the regional level. This whole issue is part of the U.S. pressure on North Korea, Iran and Syria. At the same time the American President is taking advantage of the issue in his re- election campaign.

If White House goes ahead with its threat of inspecting the ship, it will push the Middle East region into a period of instability. Furthermore, the move will provide the U.S. with a pretext to openly increase its hold over the natural resources of the southern Persian Gulf region and will corner its future rivals in the new world order. Escalation of the ballyhoo over the ship will first of all pose threats on the Arab states which with no hesitation have been turned into U.S. client states.

Meanwhile, the English daily "TEHRAN TIMES" said that the two ships by navigating towards Iran and Syria have violated no international law and regulation. It is ironical that there was no objection from any international organization during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war when at least 70 Scud missiles, similar to those the North Korean ship is said to have been carrying, were fired on Iran.

"And the claim that the U.S. is objecting to North Korea for having dispatched such missiles to the Middle East wouldn't carry much weight in view of the fact that Washington made no objections when the Chinese furnished Saudi Arabia with much more advanced ballistic missiles."

In light of the steady fall in George Bush's popularity, he might be tempted to attract public opinion by engaging in an international adventure, concluded the English daily.

'Immediate, Resolute Action' Urged

LD0803113592 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA—The Persian daily 'SALAM' Sunday lashed out at the U.S. Administration for threatening to intercept an Iran-bound North Korean ship.

The daily was commenting on reports that Washington is considering measures to stop a North Korean freighter which is claimed to be carrying arms for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

An immediate and resolute reaction of the Iranian officials to the latest U.S. Administration move will result in quick retreat of the enemy—the U.S.

Iran's attitude towards the U.S. or any other bullying power is clear and defined. Frankly any party which feels it can afford to take actions against the other and tolerate the outcome, it will go ahead with the plan. On the contrary, the move will be checked once the White House is forced to calculate the consequences of the action and come to the understanding that the losses will outmaneuver the gains. "The White House officials must be made to hear this."

The paper added that confiscation of 'Cape Maleas' in Bosphorus Strait by Turkish authorities last October was, as some had predicted, "a prelude to future aggressions."

"The propaganda ballyhoo of the recent months on disarmament of the Middle East which was mainly directed on Iran and few other states outside the U.S. domain, was expected to be followed by action sooner or later."

Velayati Comments on Nagorno-Karabakh Mediation

LD0503183192 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1615 GMT 5 Mar 92

["Excerpts" of an "exclusive interview" with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent on "Iran's mediatory role in Armenia and Azerbaijan's dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Velayati, in English] Yes, as you rightly mentioned, recently I was in Azerbaijan and Armenia on the basis of the official request of both governments, Azerbaijan and Armenia. We went there. That was the first step, and as I said before my trip to that region, that was a fact-finding step. Fortunately, when we where there, both countries had agreed for three-day cease-fire to facilitate our mission. And thanks to both governments

and both peoples because of the good will and good intention that they have shown.

After our returning, we got in touch with some countries which are directly and indirectly related to this issue and at the beginning of next week a high-ranking official mission from our foreign ministry will go both countries, to Azerbaijan and Armenia, for continuation of their talks with the officials in these two countries.

At the same time, our Red Crescent will send a group there in close cooperation with the foreign ministry, our foreign ministry. We are going to try for exchange of, for exchanging of dead bodies and PoWs between two sides. These actions also are based on the request of both sides. And also we will send some medicines and some medical requirements that those who have been in this conflict need. We do hope that we can continue these efforts and reach concrete conclusion as soon as possible.

The first goal that we are looking for is the cease-fire. We do hope that we can reach an agreement with both sides for a longer cease-fire or permanent cease-fire in this region.

Joint Efforts With Russia Foreseen

LD0703125992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The resignation of Ayaz Mutalibov, the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has brought political developments concerning the dispute over Karabakh to a new stage. [passage omitted]

The reason for opposition's pressure on the president of Azerbaijan to resign stemmed from the general belief that Mutalibov showed weakness with regard to the Karabakh dispute and that he had not been able to stop attacks by Armenian forces.

Now that Mutalibov's efforts to come to terms with the opposition have failed and he has been forced to resign, it is expected that his opponents will give new dimensions to their attempts to achieve greater powers. They will possibly maximize their efforts to mobilize manpower and resources for a more serious engagement in Karabakh. This comes at a time when a number of countries, motivated by a desire to achieve their own particular ends in the region, are trying to support only one party in the dispute in order to enable it to continue the war. Such a course, given the rising tensions and popular emotions in the karabakh dispute, will enlarge the extent of the hostile acts more than ever before.

Such an event may meanwhile affect the interests and security of all the countries of the region. At present many countries which have an interest in the Karabakh dispute are trying to find a solution to the dispute through their mediation. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which some time ago started its own efforts aimed at bringing peace, has now begun a new phase in its mediation efforts.

Meanwhile, because of the reality that the settlement of the bloody dispute in Karabakh requires the cooperation and goodwill of the Government of Russia, the Islamic Republic of Iran will possibly start joint efforts with that country in settling the Karabakh dispute.

U.S. Trying to 'Thwart' Tehran Role

LD0703110592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Last night Baku Radio broadcast a commentary which said: America and some foreign countries are trying to thwart Iran's political endeavors to end the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Baku Radio added: America considers the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minster's peace mission to be contrary to its interests and policies in the Middle East. Therefore, it endeavors to thwart Tehran's peaceful efforts. The radio pointed out that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Azarbaijan was merely a political maneuver aimed at preventing Iran's spiritual influence in that country.

Baku Radio then gave details of the serious situation in the Karabakh region and referred to the heavy attacks by Armenian forces which have resulted in the deaths of many Azeri people. The radio said: Russian and Western media act partially and tendentiously and do not propagate any news on the massacres of the people in the villages and cities of Azerbaijan.

Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia Officially Recognized

LD0803111692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] In his meeting this morning with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Velayati, Mr. Andrej Ocvirk, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Slovenia, submitted a report on the latest developments in his country. Stressing the expansion of ties between Slovenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, he called on our country to officially recognize his Republic.

Speaking of his government's decision to join the Nonaligned Movement, Mr. Andrej Ocvirk expressed his hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the important poles of that movement, would support Slovenia's request.

Mr. Velayati expressed his best wishes for the newly independent Republic of Slovenia and said: We naturally support the peoples' wish to determine their own government. The Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to officially recognize the independence of Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Velayati Urges ICO Action on Burmese Muslims

LD0703175192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] In a letter addressed to Mr. Hamid al-Gabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], Foreign Minister Velayati called on the ICO to undertake greater moves to prevent the continuing expulsion of the Muslims of Myanmar [Burma] and their return. [as heard]

Pointing out the continuing expulsion of the defenseless Muslims of Myanmar, the message describes the Islamic Republic of Iran as the first country which—through the dispatch of assistance teams to Bangladesh—came to the assistance of the refugees. The message says: Noting that the ICO's mission is to support Muslims and their aspirations and beliefs—especially in non-member states—one expects moves and seriousness today in this important matter. The Myanmar Government must quickly stop its suppressive measures against the Muslims and create the conditions for the honorable return of those Muslims to their homeland. It must officially recognize the political and social rights of the Muslims.

The foreign minister of our country has announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for any move by the ICO to prevent the continuation of this anti-humane tragedy, to return the Muslims of Myanmar, and to provide for their just rights.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Leads Tehran Friday Prayers

Rafsanjani Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0603173192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Second sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University Friday prayers ceremony on 6 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. As I told you in my previous sermon, I devote the second sermon to a summation of the state of our revolution and country in the course of this year, which is coming to an end. As the country's responsible executive, I consider it your right to be informed, and on the basis of my knowlege and understanding of the state of affairs in the country at the end of the year, I will give you this information from the Friday prayers pulpit, and as the Friday prayers preacher. Since this is the last sermon I will be delivering this year—although there will be other Friday prayers preachers until the end of the year—this being my last sermon this year, I will elaborate on these issues today.

As a person who is well aware of the situation in the country—and should be—my summation of the trend of the revolution's events, in the year which we are about to leave behind, is positive; I believe this year was a good year for our revolution and the path of the revolution was a pleasant one. Of course, this does not mean that we have no faults and shortcomings, nor does it mean that it could not have been any better. What I mention, however, concerns what has already passed, which should be satisfactory in total; this year we must be both pleased and grateful for our past, while at the same time we must be aware of the areas which could have been better, and amend them.

I will look at various dimensions; from the political dimension—both internal and external...[changes thought] of course, my points are very brief and itemized, since had I chosen to speak at length I would have had to give a separate reasoning and testimony for each claim, which is not possible in one sermon and in this cold weather.

Internally, praise be to God, there has been an optimal level of unity, coordination and empathy among our nation, our country's officials, our leader and the entire community, and despite the existence of many provocations and poisonous propoganda waged by the arrogance by means of their own media and agents inside the country, on the whole, however, the situation inside the country has been satisfactory, the last testimony to which was the rally on 11 February [anniversary of the revolution] to which you yourselves, by virtue of your presence on the scene, were witness; therefore there is no need for me to elaborate. You witnessed the people's large-scale presence on the scene throughout the country, in towns and villages, in the capital and outside.

This is a very good sign, but one cannot say...[changes thought] Some may say that the people care for their revolution, hence their wish to manifest their devotion. Therefore it is not easy to judge, and it would be a hasty judgement.

Another testimony was yesterday's Do-Good Festival, where we were witness to some precious scenes by the people. First, one must thank the Voice and Vision, especially the radio personnel who showed great intiative in that instance, and managed well. But, what is important, however, is the people's presence, and such charitable scenes. [passage omitted]

God willing, we will see yet another demonstration of this empathy and harmony and presence on the scene during the Majles elections, in which our people will defnitely show their presence like the previous elections, or even better. And, God willing, the elections will be held in the best manner. Then it will be yet another demonstration of cohesion, intelligence and awareness of the people. [Crowd chants: "Death to America, death to Israel"] In any case, there is still some time before the elections, so I will talk about the elections at another, more suitable time.

Now turning to the world scene. On balance, we have been in a good position, thanks to God and His support, which was due to the fact that it is what the people

deserved. That is, the revolution has been in a good position—in all dimensions.

First, the revolution's message found wider audiences. There are signs of Islam throughout the world, which shows that our revolution has found its niche. Of course, it had already achieved that feat, but it was not visible. However, this year, good signs surfaced and were visible, thus indicating that the revolution has found its niche. An obvious example is what I personally witnessed in Africa—that meek and deprived continent. What I saw was beyond our expectations. In two countries I visited—Sudan and Senegal—the place of the revolution has the importance of the revolution in our in our own country among the Hezbollahi forces. That is a very good sign for the presence of the Islamic revolution in the world.

Meanwhile, the events taking place in Algeria—where people appeared on the scene in the same fashion—underline the success of the Islamic revolution of Iran. It has attracted the public opinion of the world Muslims toward Islam, which is what we had aspired to. We wanted the world of Islam to arrive at that stage. That is one dimension about which one can talk a lot, but we do not intend to talk too much about it now.

The other dimension of the case is what is happening around us; our relations with our neighbors have taken on a more logical and desirable form. It is improving. Some sort of tranquility and confidence is being formed, which is one of the imperatives of the success of the revolution in its different dimensions. Thanks to God, after many years of being deprived of Haj, we managed this year to perform our pilgrimage to God's House while maintaining our desired aspirations and slogans in a way the Imam would have wished.

Meanwhile, the threats existing in our neighborhood which had brought about insecurity to parts of our country, have now—thanks to God—been diminished or eliminated. We can now engage in long- term planning thanks to the conditions around us.

Another issue which relates to us—and we must to some extent give some credit for it to the Islamic revolution—is the disintegration of Marxism. As far as we are concerned, and because of the contents of our revolution, it is a great world-wide achievement; that is, to the extent it concerns us. I am not concerned with it to the extent whereby it relates to others.

Because we are, in principle, against infidelity; because we are, in principle, against materialism; and since we think that humanity's worst pain is materialism, the disintegration of Marxism must be counted as a very good achievement for us. Additionally, 70-80 million Muslims have been liberated from very bad conditions. [passage omitted]

A number of Muslim countries have appeared and attained official status in the world, and those Muslims who could not have any contact with the outside world in the name of Islam have established contact with others. An Islamic movement has started in those countries, which is very beautiful. For that reason it has had a very good reflection on last year's conditions. We consider it to be God's blessing, a fruit of the Islamic revolution, and a blessing of the holy breath of the imam for us to have reached this point. God willing, it will have further affect.

Despite the pressures on us, the status of the Islamic revolution has improved in international circles. Because of the present conditions, many people who are still hostile can no longer express their enmity, and have to hold their tongues. The most important consequence of this was the Ba'thist Party of Iraq being condemned over the eight-year war. What has occurred is truly a feather in our cap. The sweetness of this victory has seeped to every part of our being. For eight years, all arrogant media called us belligerent, yet we were really the injured party, defending ourselves. We were isolated and alone against so many devils; but they still called us belligerent, stubborn and pig-headed. But last year, the UN secretary general's judgment put paid to all that, and foiled all those evil and unfair propagandists. And so, this meek Islamic entity, which had suffered so much oppression and unfair judgments in that period, was able to show itself.

The legal consequences of this concern the future. God willing, with God's blessing, and under favorable circumstances, we will be able to utilize its legal consequences. [Crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America"]

In many circles today, Iran is viewed as an independent body, and many countries are voting for Iranian representatives. What we say in international circles now carries a lot more weight than it did. That is just the beginning. From a regional standpoint, Iran's importance as an accepted fact is now evident. During the period when we had the Economic Cooperation Organization sessions and the start of the Caspian sessions, we witnessed world judgments and our own situation. Iran has now become a very suitable crossroad for economic and political moves in the region. Those many countries that have recently been created, evolved, and revived, to our north, must use Iran to make contact with the world to the south, east and west, and to continue their existence. [passage omitted]

These new conditions appeared this year. I am not saying that we have created them; this is an inherent part of Iran. But, in any case, it is a positive point which should be considered in our evaluation. We hope that through this course, the economic and political upheaval that will occur in Iran and will take Iran to its proper place—that is, a center for movement for the Muslim countries around us and for their communications—will benefit us greatly.

From the point of view...[changes thought] I told you all this, mostly as a list, because I am afraid I may not be able to come to the important points that I want to tell you.

From the cultural point of view, thank God, your country has had qualitative as well as quantitative growth scholastically. The universities have done well scholastically, schools have done well scholastically. The literacy movement succeeded in making great strides-.[passage omitted]

Economically speaking, thank God, what we envisaged for the five- year plan is progressing well. The various parameters are satisfactory. However, we have more difficulties in this sphere than others. This is because both the inheritance from the past, and the war, created conditions in our nation whereby compensation for those shortcomings, destruction, and incorrect methods, will take a long time. However, the work is progressing well within the plan, and in some cases better than the plan. Let me give you a few examples:

In the plan we basically focused on work on the infrastructure. You must be aware of the truly immense work that is being done in the country. [passage omitted] Our mother industries have shown serious growth. In the steel industry, during the past two years, especially this year, we had increased growth: This year production reached 3 million tonnes. The Mobarakeh steel mill is following this trend, and will have high growth. In the petrochemical industry, massive and legendary plans are being implemented. In the future we will be the chemical providers for many industries of the world.

The reconstruction of the country is going on extensively. In my visit to Khuzestan I saw that a lot of work has been done, but the need is much greater. We have to think about the future.

In Agriculture, thank God, production was over 800,000 tonnes more than last year. The situation concerning cultivation heralds greater hopes for the future. Self-sufficiency in the consumer industry is a serious aim. [passage omitted] Our exports have doubled this year, yet it was thought that we had nothing to export. Doubling of exports is of value. [passage omitted]

At the same time we maintain subsidies. This is one of the difficulties of our work. One of our shortfalls in the past was that everything was administered through subsidies. As the policy of change is continuing, the subsidies are being maintained. We are paying a heavy price for the subsidies. The major part of the life of the people is controlled by the government by way of the public treasury. Our people receive bread practically free of charge. We buy grain at 15 tomans per kilo, convert it into flour, and pass it to the bakeries at one toman per kilo. We buy sugar at 40-50 tomans per kilo from the factory and sell it to the people at 2.70-3 tomans per kilo. We buy cooking oil at 40-50 tomans and sell it to the people at 3-4 tomans per kilo—as much as their coupon entitles them to. We supply the farmers with very low-priced pesticide and fertilizer. As regards fuel, not only do we supply it freely, but we add a little something extra to it, too. [as heard] We supply the people with 1.2 million barrels of oil per day, free of charge—yet our sales do not even cover the delivery charge. This is our people's life style. [passage omitted]

These resources do not belong to us, nor do they belong to the government; they are yours. This is the existing situation; however, conditions are such that we cannot suddenly terminate these subsidies, as that would ruin the life of the weak strata. We are progressing through our five-year plan by maintaining the people's purchasing power, achieving equilibriums, while at the same time raising salaries. This year we raised employees' wages, and will do likewise next year. We hope that the situation currently prevailing throughout the country will lead to a good future for Iran, and that Iran will become a powerful country befitting the rule of the Lord of the Age. [Crowd chants: "God is Great," "Death to the counterrevolutionaries," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

Because of the bad weather, I think it would be wiser to end my sermon, and I will not preach the Arabic sermon, either. [Koranic recitation omitted]

Ayatollah Khamene'i Addresses Clergy

LD0403142692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution to Friday prayer leaders of Tehran and Qom and other clerics, in Tehran on 4 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the threshold of the blessed days of the holy month of Ramadan, we feel blessed with the opportunity to meet the honorable ulema and Friday prayer leaders and seminarians. [passage omitted]

Several points have come to mind of which you should be advised. The first point relates to the centenary of the passing away of Mirza Shirazi, that great learned man of the history of clerics who was the standard-bearer of a rich and meaningful struggle against the centers of corruption. [Shirazi was a cleric who in 1890s' issued a religious ban on use of imported tobacco, forcing the authorities to abrogate a concession to a foreign firm] The movement of Mirza Shirazi was a multi-faceted movement which had a variety of implications. Unfortunately, so far a correct and full research work on that great man has not yet been done. [passage omitted]

Today, all the strata of the Islamic ulema have a dual duty. This consists of support for Islam which today has been realized in the form of an Islamic Government in this country. [slogan chanting: Death to Israel; Death to

the Monafeqin and Saddam]. This is the duty of everyone. [passage omitted].

Of course, the fulfillment of Islamic aspirations is not something that can be achieved in 10 or 20 years; it is a long-term and gradual affair and everyone has to assist. [passage omitted]. It is everyone's responsibility, notably, the responsibility of us, clergy and turbaned men, to assist in the process of general reform. Thus, our primary duty is to preserve the system. No one can—by resorting to accusations that here or there a certain offense has been committed—do or say something to weaken the Islamic system. Of course, everyone should work toward eliminating corruption through legitimate means. Enjoining the right and forbidding the wrong is an Islamic duty and should prevail among the people.

An important issue I should like to talk about concerns Islam's bases, that is, mosques and propagation centers [majales-e tabligh]. What have we done with these and what do we want to do with them? this is the question we have to ask ourselves.

Mosques have always been the bases for people's religious practice and the bases of people's movement along the path of religion, throughout the stages of our proud-inspiring history. You will yourselves recall the times of the revolution [1978-79] which began from the mosques. Today too, mosques still act as centers whenever people do something or mobilize for political or military purposes. The mosques provide us with this blessing. They are not merely bricks and mortar. We have to ask this vital question from ourselves and if we do not, others will ask it from us. The question is: What are we doing or do we intend to do about the development and advancement of the mosque? This is an important task. [passage omitted]. We have to draw up programs and plans for the mosques and who should do this except the ulema themselves, clergymen, and congregational prayer leaders. I do not say that we should definitely use modern publicity equipment and instruments such as films and similar things—except if, perhaps on some occasion or other, a prayer leader would want to—and that's a separate discussion.

I think that we can continue past traditions and methods but make their contents better. Why should I hear that in Tehran which is so huge, several mosques are not opened for morning prayers at the start of Azan [call to prayers], and that not many group-prayers are being held ? We should be going and praying with the people in the mornings, at noon, in the evenings—this is our first and most vital task in the mosques. Why should the melody of Azan not be heard in every part of this great city which echoes with all sorts of other sounds and noises. Azan, after all, is a sign of being Muslim. Who has said that the call to prayer should not be made from mosque rooftops or from loudspeakers in large and main mosques—even at dawn? In the case of noon and evening, it goes without saying. When the time for Azan arrives, Tehran should be resounding all over with its sound. Don't we call this place the power house of Islam [qovat ol-Eslam]? Isn't this place the power house of Islam? Does it make sense that people walking in the streets should not have any idea that noon has arrived and passed?

If we fail to keep our mosques warm, if we fail to maintain our presence in the mosques, if as a cleric and prayer leader we fail to administer a mosque then how can we expect the people to close down their shops to stand behind us [for prayer] as soon as it is midday and the call to prayer is heard ?

For people to come to the mosques it is our duty to be there in the first place. Of course, we need to engage in propagation and advice to encourage the people to attend the mosques. But the main imperative is for us ourselves to be there. And yet, unfortunately, that is our weak point now. We must find a remedy for it.[passage omitted]

Now look at the situation in the world to see what they are doing to the nations, especially to the oppressed Muslim nations. Yet, the gentlemen [aqayan; reference to Western organizations] talk of supporting human rights ? And they do not feel ashamed.

Look at the lot of the oppressed people of Palestine and the pressure which the usurper Zionist government puts on them—they cannot live in their homes with comfort and move around freely. Look at the oppressed people of Lebanon, and Kashmir, and the oppressed and poor Muslims of Burma. They live in their tens of thousands under the worst possible conditions in Bangladesh. Our representatives went there and on their return they reported a situation which is so horrible. How far can the world today be indifferent to human rights in the real sense ? [passage omitted] Against such injustices nobody raises a voice—neither the United Nations nor the Human Rights Commission raises a voice, nor does the international Committee of the Red Cross feel responsible. And those false organizations claiming to support human rights do not do anything. It all seems as if they [Burmese Muslims] are not human beings.

All this demonstrate the world's enmity toward Islam and Islamic senses and values. It shows how much they are indifferent to the human race. And what they say about human rights and such topics is nothing but a political weapon with which to hit somebody or to promote somebody else, or to weaken a government or to drive the people from the scene.

Unfortunately, these remarks do not reach the public opinion of Europe and America so they may see what their rulers are doing in the world. Of course, our own people are well aware of these facts. [passage omitted]

If they were true supporters of human rights they would have protested the martyrdom of our dear martyr, the late Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi who was martyred in that fashion with his wife and child by an Israeli missile who hit them inside the territory of Lebanon. Some were so shameless that they supportoed that crime.

They do not condemn Israel's acts of aggression against Lebanon and the Muslim people who own Palestine; they do not mention the events in Kashmir; they completely regard the problems of Muslims in Burma and Miyanmar as null and void. Why? What have they done wrong? Their crime is that they are Muslims. They are enemies of Islam, they are afraid of Islam. That is what the world is like today.

Things have reached a stage where the fight against Islam is no longer undercover. In Algeria they clearly state that they are fighting Islamic tendencies—and Algeria is a Muslim country. When they say that there, what do you expect from non-Muslim and anti-Islamic governments? That is how the world is.

The only ray of hope left for Muslim nations is here, the Islamic Republic. Should we cut off this ray, dash the hopes of those nations, be silent, and yield to the bullying pressures of big powers? Is that what God has decreed? Would God like that? Does the tradition of jihad against oppression and enjoining the right and forbidding the wrong permit us to think that? God forbid. The banner of the fight against oppression will be preserved here. [Crowd chants death to America, Israel, hypocrites and so on]

We will stand against any hegemonistic and oppressive power which relies on bayonets in its fight against nations, whoever they are, be it America, or any other power, even if it is stronger than America, as we did before. In the past we stood up to the combined forces of America and the Soviet Union, who were united against us. The United States and the USSR were two superpowers and their combined strength was considerably more than that of present-day America. They had joined forces against us; but we stood up to them, and we will go on doing so.

This resistance requires further deepening and polishing up of the people's faith. And that is in your hands. It is up to you all, the clergy, [to do so] with words and deeds—actions come with words. We must deepen that faith with our actions, faith, piety, virtuousness and disregard for the world, by not relying on superficial worldly possessions, which attract and deceive the people of the world, by thinking and speaking with consideration, and guiding and enlightening the people.

Thank God the nation is standing. It is a good, strong, brave, steadfast, self-sacrificing nation. [passage omitted] It would be wrong to think that they are despondent or have turned away. It is not so, at all. You saw on the 12 Bahman [11 February] and throughout the [revolution anniversary] ceremonies. And anywhere else that is necessary you would see that this nation is standing. The clergy should know its duty, that is, it should lead the people on the scene of work, effort and, especially, danger. We hope God will give us all success-.[passage omitted] Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Pakistan

Muzaffar Hussain Shah Elected Sindh House Leader

'Unanimous' Vote

BK0603161792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah was unanimously elected as leader of the house by the Sindh assembly in Karachi tonight. He was elected on separate resolutions moved by Mr. Tariq Javed, Dr. Salim Jan Jami, Pir Sibghatullah Shah Rashdi, Mr. Liaqat Ali Jatoi, Mr. Ismail Rahu, and Mr. Abdul Qadir Malkani, stating that Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah commanded the confidence of the majority of the members of the assembly. The speaker put the motions before the house. The house adopted all the resolutions unanimously by a voice vote. The opposition members were present in the house but did not oppose the resolutions.

Earlier, the Jam-MQM [Jam Sadiq Ali-Muhajir Qaumi Movement Alliance] parliament party at its meeting this evening unanimously elected Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah as their new leader in the assembly. Sixty members attended the meeting. Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah thanked the members for their support and the confidence reposed in him.

New Sindh Chief Sworn In

BK0703065592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah was sworn in as the Sindh chief minister in Karachi last night. Sindh Governor Mahmood A. Haroon administered the oath of office. In a brief interview to Radio Pakistan after being sworn in as the Sindh chief minister, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah said that maintenance of law and order and attention to development work in the province will be included in his top priorities. He said he will make it sure that basic amenities are provided to both urban and rural population of the province without any discrimination.

The Sindh assembly has been summoned to meet in Karachi this morning. The new chief minister, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, is expected to seek a vote of confidence from the house.

Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has congratulated Syed Muzaffar Shah on his election as the Sindh chief minister. In a message of greetings to the new chief minister, the prime minister said the trust reposed in Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah by the Sindh assembly members is the manifestation of their desire to ensure continued peace and progress in the province. The prime minister added that the Sindh assembly members, by electing the chief minister who has vast experience in administrative affairs and legislation, have proved their commendable sense of responsibility and political wisdom. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that the people

of Sindh need uninterrupted peace and reconcilitaion for their progress. He expressed confidence that the new chief minister will fully utilize his experience and capability to achieve this objective. The prime minister also assured him of all possible assistance in discharging his new responsibilities.

Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] Leader Altaf Hussain has assured Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah of MQM's full support in the fulfillment of the task of Sindh's progress, national stability, promotion of democracy, and establishment of peace. In a congratulatory message from London, Altaf Hussain expressed the hope that Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah will work for the welfare of all sections of the province's population in line with the tradition set by Jam Sadiq Ali. MQM Chairman Azim Ahmad Tariq, while welcoming the unanimous election of Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah as the new people's leader in the Sindh assembly and new Sindh chief minister, has said that his election has proved false the propaganda that a vacuum has been created in the constitutional crisis in the province.

Assembly Gives Vote of Confidence

BK0703082092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The Sindh assembly unanimously expressed its confidence in the leadership of the new Sindh chief minister, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, in Karachi a short while ago. Mr. Tariq Chaudhary, Mr. Sibghatullah Khan Rushdie, Mr. Masood Jatoi, Mr. Ismail Rahu, Mr. Liaqat Jatoi, Mr. Ghulam Qadir Malkani, Mr. Salim Jan Madari, and Mr. (Hoshang Barocha) moved similar resolutions in the house seeking the vote of confidence to Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah. The resolution said that this house has full confidence in Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, chief minister of Sindh under the provision of Article 130 Clause-3 of the Constitution.

Spokesman—'Full Safeguards' at Nuclear Plant

BK0903070492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] A spokesman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC] has said that the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant [KANUPP] is continuously functioning with full safeguards under tight security. Refuting some press reports about inadequate safeguards at the plant, the spokesman said that various missions of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] have been regularly inspecting the KANUPP and have independently acknowledged that the procedures and safeguards adopted at the plant fully conform to international standards for safeguards and procedures. The spokesman assured that PAEC will continue a close watch on the operation and maintenance of the plant, adding that the IAEA will also be included in this process so an independent review can be made in this regard.

Three Branches of BCCI To Merge With Habib Bank

BK0803162292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The Government has announced about the amalgamation of three branches of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International [BCCI] with Habib Bank. This arrangement has been made on the basis on the conditions agreed upon by the liquidators of the BCCI, Habib Bank and State Bank of Pakistan. The federal bank has given its approval for a scheme in this regard. Under this scheme, assets and liabilities of the BCCI's Pakistani branches will be transferred to Habib Bank to be managed through a subsidiary. All unencumbered deposits and claims shall be payable in full.

It may be recalled that the account holders of the above branches of BCCI were permitted to withdraw from their deposits 100,000 rupees or 30 percent of their deposits, whichever is higher. Thus the government and the state bank have fulfilled their pledge to protect the interests of the account holders of branches concerned and loanees. The interests of the officers and employees of the concerned branches are also being protected. Employees will not be dismissed from service till 12 months from the date of merger, nor will any change be made to their service conditions which would be detrimental to them. Before the expiry of the 12-month period, a review will be made to decide on the future of the subsidiary of the Habib Bank which is being set up to administer these branches.

World Bank To Assist Privatization Program

BK0803150492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1415 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The World Bank will help Pakistan facilitate successful implementation of the privatization program. This was stated by the vice president of the World Bank, Mr. D. Joseph Wood, when he called on the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad today. Appreciating the measures taken by the government for restructuring of economy and redermining priorities, Mr. Wood assured the Bank's cooperation for success of the much-needed reforms. He said the government has taken up issues that needed to be addressed for a long time. He said the prime minister is following the right strategies in a difficult situation. Mr. Wood who is vice president to South Asia region also offered the bank's help in mobilizing private sector funding for various projects in Pakistan.

The prime minister told Mr. Wood that Pakistan can no longer afford to borrow to waste. He said his government believes in borrowing in case of absolute necessity. Mr. Nawaz Sharif said his government has injected a strong element of accountability which would elimate wasteful expenditures and substantially reduce the need to borrow. The prime minister said he would like the ministries, departments, and agencies of the government to be responsible for their plans and programs. He said

these measures would go a long way in accelerating developments in the country.

And in his meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Mr. Joseph Wood said his bank is ready to support development efforts of Pakistan, especially its social action program. They discussed international economic situation with particular reference to Pakistan. Mr. Joseph Wood expressed satisfaction at the various measures undertaken by the present government. He hoped that the growth rate in Pakistan would be considerably enhanced in the current fiscal year as compared to last year. The president appreciate the role played by the World Bank in the economic development of Pakistan. He expressed the hope that the World Bank would continue to extend its cooperation in furthering the progress and development of the country.

'Early Resolution' of Afghanistan Issue Sought

BK0903034392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Pakistan is consistently striving for an early resolution of the Afghanistan problem, a solution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue, and nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. This was stated by Foreign Affairs Secretary General M. Akram Zaki during a meeting with World Bank Vice President Joseph Wood in Islamabad yesterday. He said that we are working to realize these objectives so as to promote peace and security which will enable the regional countries to devote their energies for their socioeconomic development. But, unfortunately, the sincere efforts being made by Pakistan to end the tension have been rendered futile due to India's intransigence on the Jammu and Kashmir issue. Zaki said that it has been the consistent policy of Pakistan that the defense expenditures should be viewed in the perspective of security needs and the regional political situation. Resolution of major regional disputes will help in reducing defense expenditures on a regional basis, he added. The secretary general appreciated World Bank assistance to Pakistan and expressed the hope that the bank will help in implementing the goals of economic reforms introduced by the government.

U.S. Human Rights Stand on India 'Ill-Informed'

BK0803121292 Lahore THE NATION in English 8 Mar 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Absolving India?"]

[Text] The press report about a US Assistant Secretary of State absolving India of any human rights violations, would have caused much greater surprise had it emanated from Washington. But the fact that it comes from New Delhi, makes it much less credible. The report on human rights violations issued by the US State Department just a few months back, had particularly cited Indian held-Kashmir and Indian Punjab as areas where government functionaries had indulged in widespread abuse of human rights. The report is compiled on the basis of information sent to the State Department by its missions and other agencies and is not supposed to carry bias for or against any government, the only exception being Israel. That this bias could be extended in favour of India too, would be news, if this unusual story turns out to be right. It does make strange reading nevertheless. The Assistant Secretary of State is reported to have said that 'any violation of human rights in India might have occurred at local levels in a decentralised set-up.' No Assistant Secretary of State could be that ill-informed as not to know that both Kashmir and Punjab have been ruled directly by the Centre for many years. In both the management of law and order has been in the hands of the army. Again, in the case of Kashmir, not one but many human rights organisations of India itself have catalogued hundreds of specific instances of large-scale atrocities on unarmed civilians. The use of such words as 'might have occurred' or 'decentralised set-up', have, therefore, no relevance in the case of Kashmir.

To state that 'India is a functioning democracy where individual rights are safeguarded', as the said Assistant Secretary of State is alleged to have remarked, clearly overlooks the fact that in this so-called functioning democracy, individual rights have often been suspended and jurisdiction of the courts ousted. The notorious emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi in not so distant a past, would be one instance of that even if the current reign of terror in Kashmir is seen as a 'minor' aberration of a functioning democracy. The State Department does not have to cook up excuses for the excesses of a country which seems to have suddenly come into its favour. If it could turn a blind eye on the plight of the Palestinians for decades without any qualms of conscience, it should find no difficulty in doing so against the Kashmiris. Conscience, as we know, has never been a strong point of the US administrations.

Foreign Minister Urges End To Indian 'Atrocities'

BK0803144392 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1415 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, has urged Indonesia and members of the intenational community to persuade India to halt its policy of repression and atrocities on helpless Kashmiris. During a meeting in Jakarta, Mr. Kanjoo told the Indonesian foreign minister, Mr. Ali Alatas, that India must honor its commitment to Kashmir and decide its future in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council.